■ BUSINESS/B1

Tokyo lifts freeze on P4B in grants, loans to Manila

■ SPORTS/A23

Mavs pull ahead of Suns with Game 3 victory

■ NEWS/A16

Pilita, Francis M join Ryan as judges of RP 'Idol'

■ ACROSS/A13

GMA puts Boracay under administrative control of PTA

Soldier-athletes tapped to guard Magdalo men

BAKA MAG MATRIX ANG MGA GUARDS NA YAN PAG TUMAKAS SILA!

By Nikko Dizon

THE MAGDALO SOLDIERS will have to karate-chop their way, shoot hoops, or bend it like Beckham to escape their security escorts who happen to be strapping soldier-athletes.

SOLDIER/ A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Tuesday, May 30, 2006 ★★★ 4 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 171 P18 website: www.inq7.net

RP doctors to fly 12 tons of supplies to Indonesia

THE PHILIPPINES WILL SEND A 20-MEMBER medical contingent with 12 tons of supplies and medicine to Indonesia where a deadly earthquake on Saturday left more than 5,100 dead and 200,000 others homeless.

Emergency aid has begun pouring into areas devastated by the 6.3-magnitude earthquake in Indonesia, but officials said supplies were not being delivered fast enough to victims who begged

RP DOCTORS/ A6

60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

By Leila B. Salaverria

THE PHILIPPINE ORTHOPEDIC Center, PhilSports Arena (formerly Ultra) and the Batasan Hills Elementary School are among the 60 buildings in danger of sustaining "life-threatening" damage should a major earthquake hit Metro Manila, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

The task force also identified the Bicutan Interchange in Parañaque City as among the six bridges in Metro Manila that were recommended for strengthening to increase their chances of withstanding an earthquake.

It released the list of the buildings, mostly public elementary and high schools, to the media two days after a 6.3-magnitude quake in neighboring Indonesia claimed about 5,100 lives.

To minimize the loss of lives and property in the country, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday ordered civil defense officials to conduct earthquake-preparedness drills in schools, business districts and public places.

"Let us not be alarmed, but by all means let every vulnerable community be prepared to meet any contingencies whether brought forth by earthquakes, landslides, floods and other natural calamities," the President said.

The Philippines, just like Indonesia, sits on what is commonly referred to as the Pacific "Ring of Fire," a zone of frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions that encircles the Pacific Ocean basin.

About five quakes hit the Philippines every day, but few, if any, are felt.

A 4.0-magnitude undersea earthquake hit the Visayas early yesterday, a day after two mild quakes shook parts of the Philippines. Authorities said no damage was expected and the temblors were not related to Indonesia's killer quake.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, or Phivolcs, said the predawn quake's epicenter was 690 km southeast of Manila, off Bohol island.

On Sunday afternoon, a 5.3-magnitude quake struck off the country's northernmost Babuyan Island group. Hours later, a 3.3-magnitude quake rattled Cagayan de Oro City and nearby ar-

60 METRO/ A6

Ex-Red peace adviser killed

Llamas 8th leftist leader shot dead this month

By Job B. Belen
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

TABACO CITY—A rebel who became a peace adviser met a violent end yesterday.

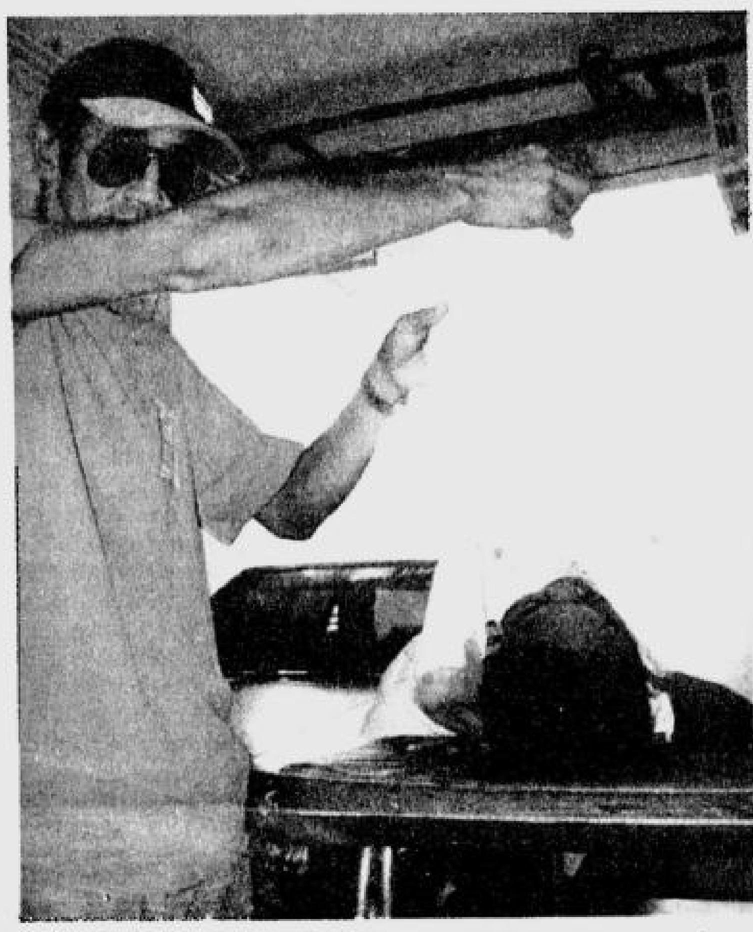
Sotero Llamas, a former New People's Army leader in Bicol and a consultant to communist rebels negotiating a peace settlement with the government, was shot dead Monday morning while riding in a van here.

His driver was wounded. The assassins escaped.

As in the previous murders of militants, Llamas, known as "Ka Teroy," was shot by two men on a motorcycle.

Colleagues said Llamas's killing reflected how dangerous the times had become even for those who had tried to leave the revolutionary path. *(See related story at left.)*

EX-RED/ A8


[illegible] LUZON BUREAU

DEAD ON ARRIVAL: The body of Sotero "Ka Teroy" Llamas at the Dr. Amando Cope Memorial Hospital in Tabaco City in Albay.

LEFTIST leaders Nathanael Santiago (left) and party-list Representatives Joel Virador, Liza Maza, Teodoro Casiño (partly hidden) and Rafael Mariano attend a Makati court hearing on the rebellion case against them with their lawyer Romulo Capulong. *(Story on Page A2.)*

REM ZAMORA

No more safe haven, says Left

By Michael Lim Ubac

"IS THE GOVERNMENT OUT TO kill us?"

This was the question posed by Rep. Satur Ocampo, leader of the militant Bayan Muna party-list group, when he heard the news that ex-communist rebel leader Sotero Llamas had been gunned down in Bicol.

Colleagues of Llamas said his murder showed there was no safe haven even for those who had abandoned the armed struggle.

"The government and the military are really itching to jail and silence us, including even the politically inactive Llamas. They had the strongest motive to silence and kill Llamas," Bayan Muna secretary general Nathanael Santiago said.

Santiago said Llamas had been inactive in Bayan Muna and the legal Left since 2003. He blamed the killing on the Arroyo administration.

Ocampo, Santiago and Llamas were among some 50 people the Department of Justice had charged with rebellion in connection with an alleged Left-Right conspiracy to grab power in February.

NO MORE/ A9

2 Abu tipsters share ₱26-million US prize

TWO FILIPINO INFORMANTS will share a $500,000-reward (about P26 million) from the US government for a tip that led to the arrest of a terror suspect in Mindanao last year, the US Embassy said yesterday.

Hilarion del Rosario Santos III, the alleged head of the Rajah Solaiman Movement, a group of Christian converts to Islam that has been closely associated with al-Qaida-linked militants, was arrested in Zamboanga City in October last year together with six other suspects.

His group is believed to have links to the Indonesian-based Jemaah Islamiyah and the bandit group Abu Sayyaf, which operates in Mindanao.

The Abu Sayyaf was behind the bombing of a ferry in Manila on Feb. 27, 2004 that killed 116 people and the simultaneous bombings in Makati, General Santos and Davao cities on Feb. 14, 2005, that left seven dead and 150 wounded.

Jemaah Islamiyah, a group seeking to create an Islamic state in Southeast Asia, was behind the explosion on Aug. 1, 2000, at the Jakarta residence of the Philippine ambassador to Indonesia and the Rizal Day bombings in Metro Manila, also in 2000.

Santos also was connected to plots to attack the US Embassy in Manila and American citizens, the embassy said.

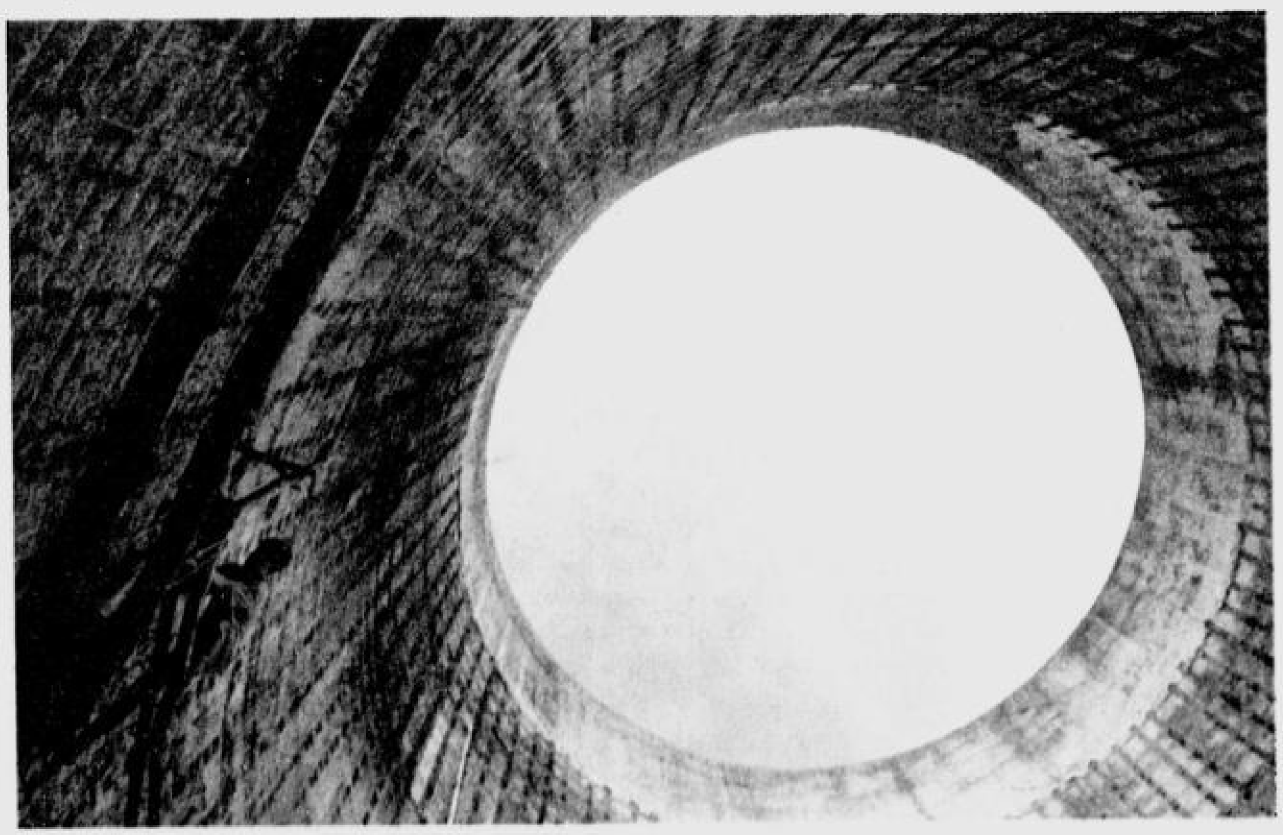
It said the money, to be pre-

2 ABU/ A4

SALVAGE MISSION

Laid-off workers of Atlas Consolidated Mining and Development Corp. retrieve materials from inside the crumbling structures at the company's Carmen copper mining site on the outskirts of Toledo City in Cebu. They sell the scrap to earn a living and feed their families.

AFP



Army kickboxers go after village thugs

By Christian V. Esguerra

NOT LONG AGO, IN A REMOTE barrio in Mindanao, four of the military's toughest "jungle fighters" were handpicked for a special mission—to "neutralize" a small band of rogue men terrorizing the community.

In about a week, all seven targets mysteriously fell, one after the other. Each had a severe neck, rib or spinal injury. All survived but none of them dared pick on the local folk again.

The mission never hit the headlines—which was what the soldiers wanted. But it was a resounding success for the team that had quietly trained in an increasingly popular, albeit brutal, sport—muay thai.

This traditional fighting art form from Thailand, also known as Thai kickboxing, has been steadily replacing karate and judo, the erstwhile close-combat method of choice, in the Philippine military's elite forces.

Muay thai is referred to as "the science of eight limbs," as the hands, feet, elbows and knees are all used extensively to inflict maximum damage to an opponent. A master practitioner of muay thai has the ability to execute strikes using eight "points of contact," as opposed to "two points" (fists) in boxing and "four points" (fists, feet) used in the other forms of martial arts.

From 2000 to 2004, selected troops from the Army's 2nd Infantry Division based in Tanay, Rizal, went through separate two-month courses under muay thai expert Zhie Vallega.

The military leadership had got-

ARMY/ A4

Second FRONT PAGE

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers. The rest of the country will be partly clourainshowers.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY CHONA GALANG, PDI RESEARCH/04/07/05

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Barbs fly between lawyers in Batasan 5 hearing

By Jocelyn R. Uy

TENSION FLARED AND VOICES WERE raised between opposing counsel in a Makati court yesterday as the lawyer for five party-list congressmen charged with rebellion accused the prosecution of labeling his clients as communists and "falsely implicating" them in an alleged antigovernment plot.

Defense lawyer Romeo Capulong also accused the prosecution of maligning him by having him identified in the indictment against the so-called Batasan Five and 41 other people as a member of the communist-led National Democratic Front.

"It is a serious violation of my rights and of those who were unjustly and maliciously included in the information," Capulong told Judge Reinato Quilala.

"Is the court aware that the labeling of militant progressive groups precedes killing in this country?" Capulong added, referring to the string of largely unsolved killings of leftist militants and other people associated with the Communist Party of the Philippines and the New People's Army.

Cutting off Capulong's tirade, Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco asked the defense attorney to show a "little ethics."

"You are unethical," Capulong shot back. "I will charge all of you for disbarment and perjury. This is going too far."

The hearing was originally scheduled to tackle separate motions filed by the defense and the prosecution prior to the case going on trial.

Capulong, whose clients include Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño and Joel Virador of Bayan Muna, Rafael Mariano of Anakpawis and Liza Maza of Gabriela, told reporters afterwards that he would file charges of perjury, "incriminatory machinations" and libel against Velasco and other prosecutors.

He said they had certified to having personally examined the complainants and their witnesses, but Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino, who had initially handled the case before inhibiting herself, had ruled that the certification was false.

But Velasco shrugged off the accusation, telling reporters that Capulong was dishing out propaganda.

Overhearing Velasco's remarks, Capulong hollered: "*Sira ulo. Anong nag-po*-propaganda? (You're crazy. What propaganda?)"

Meanwhile, Maza and Casiño described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

They said they feared that yesterday's killing of Sotero Llamas, a former Bayan official, and the disappearance of Philip Limjoco in Pampanga last week, meant that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad." *(See story on Page A1)*

Sto. Tomas set to quit, cites stress, workload

By Jerome Aning

STO. TOMAS

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA Sto. Tomas confirmed yesterday that she had offered to resign, saying she wanted to work in a less stressful environment and devote more time to her personal well-being.

"I would want to continue working in government but I do not want to work full time," Sto. Tomas told reporters.

The secretary, one of the Cabinet's longest-serving members, said she wanted to "de-stress" herself by writing a book or two, possibly teach, spend more time with her daughter and grandchildren and engage in activities that would improve her health.

"I need some time to rest," she said, adding that she wanted to be able to wake up early, sleep late, not answer phone calls and even take "pilates" lessons, a form of stretching exercises.

She said in another interview that while she still had to submit a resignation, the President agreed that she needed a break.

Asked what she would miss after leaving the department, she said it would be "the work that is too much" and "working late."

The things that gave her much work and stress included the issue on wage increases; strikes; enforcement of labor laws; and overseas Filipino workers who die, are taken hostage or accused of crimes.

Sto. Tomas said she submitted a memorandum to the President early this month asking permission to leave the department. She said, however, that she did not rule out staying a little longer if the President asked her to do so for as long as her health permitted.

She said she submitted a list of 10 people, including her four undersecretaries, from which the President could choose a successor.

Apart from Undersecretaries Manuel Imson, Danilo Cruz, Carmen Padilla and Romeo Lagman, Sto. Tomas said she also endorsed Marianito Roque, chief of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration; Arthur Yap, chief of the Presidential Management Staff; Cerge Remonde, head of Malacañang's Government Mass Media Group; Court of Appeals Justice Arthur Brion; Mon Ireneta of the Civil Service Commission, and former Sen. Orlando Mercado.

Asked about reports she would be appointed chair of the Development Bank of the Philippines, she replied, "It has not been offered to me and I have not asked for it but it would be a welcome thing if it happened; if that's true, how nice."

She said she also did not want an ambassadorial post because "I do not want to be an OFW."

It has been reported that Sto. Tomas was being eyed as president of the Government Service Insurance System or that she might seek a position in the International Labor Organization or the United Nations Global Commission on Migration. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

No 'edifice complex' – Bunye

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO YESTERday unveiled another high-profile infrastructure project named after her late father but Malacañang was quick to deny it was succumbing to the "edifice complex" that was a hallmark of the Marcos administration.

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye scotched speculation that putting the name "Macapagal" on the project was done at the behest of the President.

"I don't think so," he said. "I believe what is important is that we have such an important project. The fact that it is named after a particular person probably is incidental."

President Arroyo led the groundbreaking ceremonies at the "world-class Diosdado Macapagal cruise terminal" in Orion, Bataan, making it the fifth major facility named after either of her parents.

Projects that recall Ms Arroyo's late parents since she took office in 2001 are the controversial Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard at the Manila Bay reclaimed area; the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport (which used to be the airport facility of Clark Air Force Base, now the Clark Special Economic Zone); the Eva Macapagal Super Terminal located at the Manila Port Area adjacent to the Manila Hotel, and the Eva Macapagal road in Nueva Viscaya province.

Critics claim these projects glorifying the sitting President's heritage are reminiscent of the predilection of former President Marcos and First Lady Imelda Marcos to name government-funded structures after themselves and their relatives during their reign. Such facilities eventually numbered in the dozens.

Bunye denied the President was bent on glorifying her name in similar fashion. "I don't think that this is the decision of the President. I would rather think that this is the decision or option of the project proponents."

The President herself in a statement said she was thankful to the people of Bataan for naming the passenger terminal after her father. And at the ceremonies, Bataan Rep. Albert Garcia called Ms Arroyo's father "a great Filipino."

Bunye said he had no idea why the facilities were being named after the President's father and mother. "This was the decision of the project proponents and those who implemented them," said Bunye.

He also dismissed as without basis the notion that proponents of the Bataan project were hoping to get some kind of accommodation from the President in return for the gesture. "It's just a terminal, it's an important facility," Bunye said.

GMA: Saudis to put up jatropha plant

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO yesterday said that Saudi Aramco had agreed to put up a jatropha processing plant in Mindanao that should boost government efforts to promote the lowly shrub as an alternative fuel source.

The Palace described jatropha as a "drought-resistant perennial shrub whose fruit can be processed into oil that can be refined further into diesel or burned in cooking stoves."

In a visit to Orion, Bataan, the President disclosed that during her recent state visit to Saudi Arabia, "Saudi Aramco agreed to put up an ethanol distillery and jatropha processing plant so that Mindanao would not lag behind in development."

"I agree that it's a good strategy to have the oil refinery plant in Bataan rather than in Mindanao because an ethanol distillery and jatropha plant would generate more jobs that Mindanao needs," the President said.

The President said Saudi Aramco could get its supply of jatropha from North Luzon where idle military camps have been converted into jatropha plantations.

The President made the pitch for a jatropha processing plant as she pressed Congress anew for the passage of the proposed Bio-fuel Act that seeks to spur the use of alternative fuels and force 5.2 million registered vehicle owners to use ether bioethanol or ethyl alcohol to save on fuel import costs. *Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

PHILIPPINE RETIREMENT AUTHORITY

PRA Circular No. __01___
12 May 2006
Series of 2006

*SUBJECT: **POLICY CHANGES RELATIVE TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE SPECIAL REDUCED DEPOSIT***

x——————————————————————x

*In order to liberalize the requirements of the Authority's program and to make it more competitive with the programs of other countries and attractive to prospective foreign retirees, the following changes, pursuant to Resolution No. 24, Series of 2006, of the Board of Trustees, in the rules and regulations of the Philippine Retirement Authority for retiree enlistment in its program are hereby adopted, **effective 29 May 2006.***

*1. **Special Reduced Deposit** – For principal applicants who are applying for Special Resident Retiree Visa, the minimum qualifying deposit is reduced as follows:*

AGE	FROM	TO
35-49 years old	US$75,000.00	US$50,000.00
50 years and above	US$50,000.00	US$20,000.00

*2. **Holding Period** – Retirees enrolled under this Program may be allowed to withdraw their deposit for "conversion" into an investment after a holding period of thirty (30) days from the date of the issuance of SRR Visa.*

*3. **Visitorial Fee** – For every conversion of the retiree's deposit into an investment, the concerned retiree will pay the visitorial fee as follows:*

Deposit/s	Annual Visitorial Fee
US$20,000.00	US$500.00 or its peso equivalent
US$50,000.00	US$750.00 or its peso equivalent

*4. **Areas of Investment** – The areas of investments for visa holders under the Special Reduced Deposit Scheme shall be strictly limited to the following:*

a) Purchase, acquisition and ownership of a condominium unit;
b) Long-term lease of house and lot, condominium or townhouse which should not be for a period shorter than 20 years;
c) Purchase, acquisition and ownership of golf or country club share/s; or
d) Investment in shares of stocks of corporations duly registered in the Philippine Stock Exchange

All applications for conversion of deposit shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees for its approval.

*5. **Applicability of the Program** – The program is an experimental project for six (6) months and shall apply **ONLY** to new applicants. Previous SRRV holders **CANNOT** re-apply for SRRV under this Program.*

The Officer-In-Charge, Resident Retiree Servicing Center, shall be responsible for the dissemination of this Circular.

*(SGD.) **NELSON P. COLLANTES***
General Manager

STI Gives Recognition to those Who Value Education

Like a broken record, parents would tell their children that the best and only treasure they could leave them is education. Even as many children would brush this off, this would always hold true.

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Yearly, STI also gives recognition to parents and students alike who have given importance to education. STI especially gives recognition to students who excelled in academics and/or co-curricular activities.

Last April 26, 2006, STI gave special citations to 38 of its students who graduated for the school year 2005 to 2006. STI gave academic awards to 14 students and other citations such as the Student of the Year Award.

Topping the list of academic awardees was Cherry Lyn M. Fernandez from STI College EDSA-Crossing who graduated Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science. Fernandez is also a Guaranteed Hire Program (GHP) awardee.

Other GHP awardees include Ishaaq U. Cali (STI College-Quezon Avenue), Ferdinand G. Gualo (STI College-EDSA-Crossing), and Franco T. Robles (STI College-EDSA-Crossing). The three graduated Cum Laude also with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Computer Science.

STI awards the Guaranteed Hire Program to students who have excelled academically. All GHP awardees will get guaranteed jobs from partner companies of STI.

STI also gave recognition to graduates of Diploma Courses for the school year 2005-2006 led by Joel C. Agumboy (STI College-EDSA-Crossing), who graduated with High Honors with a Diploma in E-Commerce Programming.

STI also gave special recognition to STI Student of the Year awardees Norman R. Caraig, (Area and National Level Winner-TESDA from STI College-Balayan), Ishaaq U. Cali (Area and National Level Winner-CHED from STI College-Quezon Ave.), Rothchiel A. De Lima (Area Level Winner, Southern Luzon from STI College-Sta.Cruz), and Patric Ryan C. Lee (Area Level Winner, Mindanao Area from STI College- Davao).

STI graduates posing at this year's commencement exercises.

STI takes pride in all of its graduates who are products of its Enrollment-to-Employment System (E2E System), a complete human resource development approach to education.

There are 9,518 STI students who graduated last school-year across the country. STI has one of the largest school networks with more than 100 campuses nationwide.

Only 1 of 4 pass CPA exams

By Philip C. Tubeza

THREE OUT OF FOUR ACCOUNTANCY GRADUATES are flunking the eligibility tests to become certified public accountants (CPAs), and their passing grades are getting worse, a lawmaker warned yesterday.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago said that if left unchecked, the declining quality of education in accounting schools could handicap the country's ability to tap the growing global market for outsourced financial and accounting services, which is expected to reach $25 billion in 2009.

"Both the government and the private sector should collaborate and quickly find ways to reinforce the quality of accounting instruction in the country. Otherwise, we risk losing huge opportunities to expand our share of the lucrative market for outsourced (financial and accounting) services," Santiago said in a statement.

Of the 5,318 accounting graduates that took the licensure examinations for CPAs earlier this month, only 1,253 or 23.5 percent made the grade, according to the Professional Regulation Commission.

This was even worse than the results of the CPA licensure tests in October last year, when only 1,675 or 25.1 percent of the 6,651 candidates passed, Santiago said.

"Don't get us wrong. We have a number of excellent accounting schools that produce outstanding graduates. But, overall, many schools over the years have apparently neglected the need to continuously upgrade the quality of their instruction, thus the deterioration," he said.

He noted that in the United States, the research departments of large stock brokerage firms and investment banks are entrusting auxiliary activities to offshore business process outsourcing providers that specialize in financial and accounting services.

Pinay maid gets 10 yrs

SINGAPORE—A FILipino maid was sentenced to 10 years in prison Monday for the killing of a fellow domestic worker whose dismembered body was found in an upmarket Singapore shopping district.

Guen Aguilar, 30, who was convicted early this month of killing her friend, Jane La Puebla, in a dispute over money, kept her composure when the sentence was handed down.

She escaped the death penalty after the charge was reduced to culpable homicide not amounting to murder because of her mental state when she committed the crime.

Aguilar will serve her sentence immediately with the jail term to commence from the date of her arrest last year, said Singapore's High Court Judge V.K. Rajah.

Aguilar was arrested hours after the severed head and limbs of La Puebla were found in a bag near a subway station in the Orchard Road area in September last year.

Court records showed the two had an argument in Aguilar's room at her employers' flat over $2,000 (US$1,274) she had loaned the victim, part of which had been borrowed from a loan shark.

The fight escalated during which Aguilar covered La Puebla's face with a pillow until she became unconscious. She then strangled the 27-year-old and placed her body in the bag.
AFP

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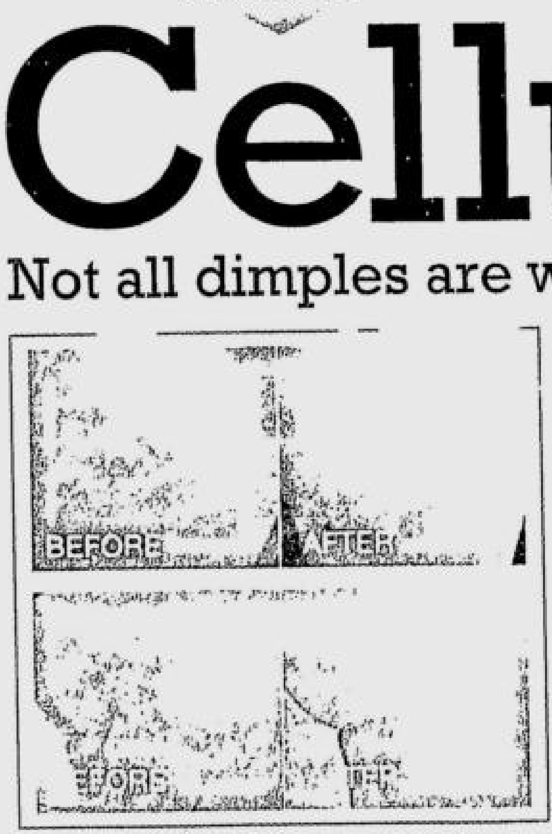
women talk:

Cellulite

Not all dimples are worth smiling about.



BEFORE AFTER

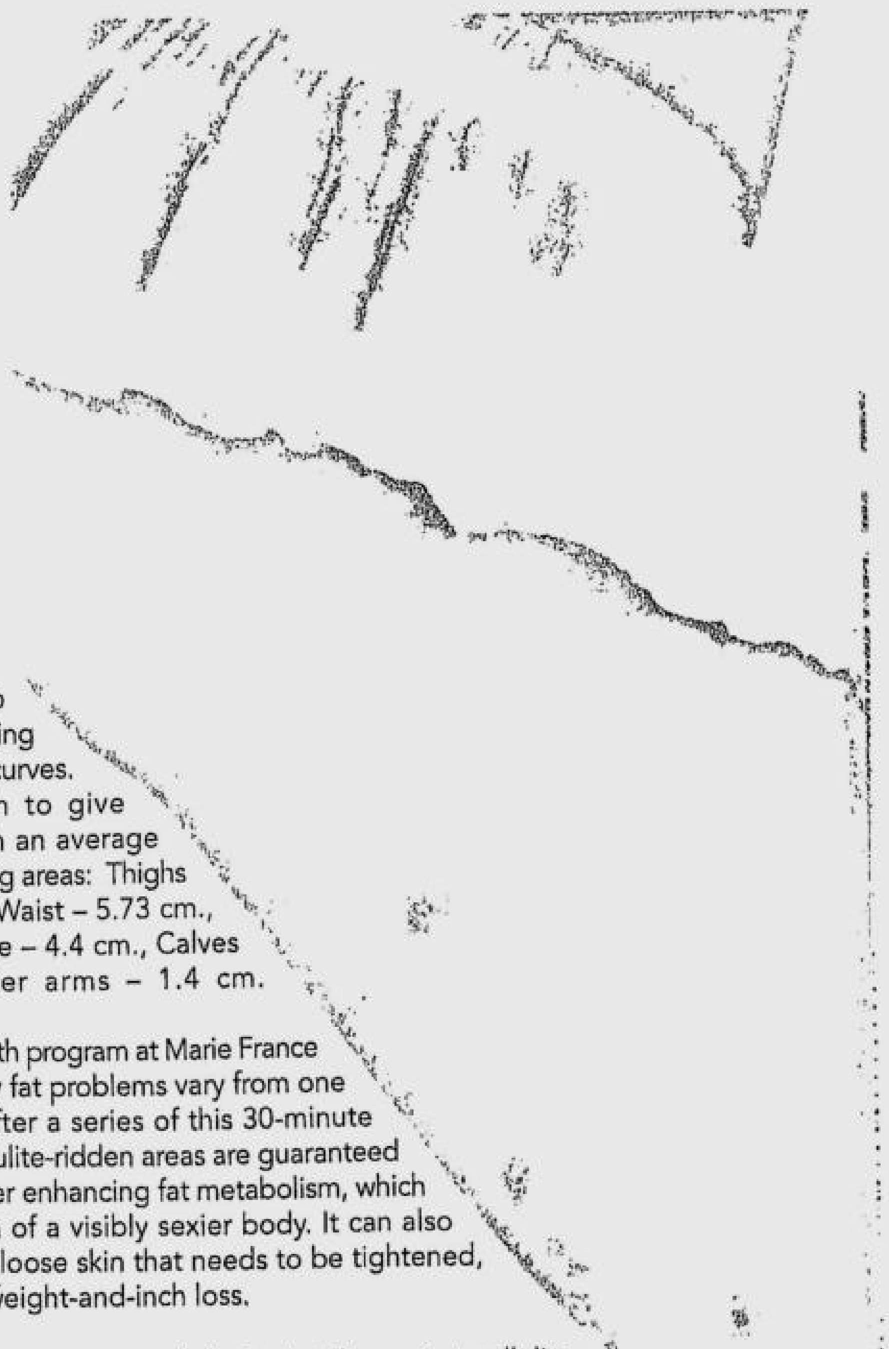
Nothing is more irritating than having misplaced dimples on your buttocks. So ugly to look at, this orange-peel-like flaw on your skin makes you feel awkward whenever you're wearing shorts, mini-skirts and swimsuits. We call these lumps and bumps *cellulite* and, yes, it is hereditary. To date, nearly 90 percent of women are trapped with this dilemma – young or old, slim or fat. Unfortunately, no amount of diet, exercise and even liposuction could free you from those pesky fats. Over-the-counter drugs, creams and gels have all been used and have shown little or no effect at all.

But just when we thought we have exhausted all possible solutions, Marie France offers the most raved about cellulite buster in the US today – **Velasmooth.** Velasmooth is a non-invasive slimming treatment that uses Electro-Optical Synergy (ELOS) technology, which combines infrared light and radio frequency together with skin contouring action to improve your body shape and get rid of unsightly stubborn fat such as cellulite.

Velasmooth works by increasing circulation through infrared light in the treated areas so that the energy stored in fat would be available for burning. Radio frequency then ensures that the infrared is focused on the fat problem. Lastly, the suction helps to contour the body, resulting to smoother, shapelier curves. Velasmooth is proven to give remarkable results with an average reduction in the following areas: Thighs – 4.18 cm., Abdomen-Waist – 5.73 cm., Hips – 5.86 cm., Braline – 4.4 cm., Calves – 2.2 cm., and Upper arms – 1.4 cm.

Every Velasmooth program at Marie France is personalized as body fat problems vary from one woman to another. After a series of this 30-minute relaxing treatment, cellulite-ridden areas are guaranteed to smoothen out, further enhancing fat metabolism, which leads to the formation of a visibly sexier body. It can also be used if a client has loose skin that needs to be tightened, as a result of sudden weight-and-inch loss.

Finally breaking new grounds in the battle against cellulite, Velasmooth succeeds where all other products have failed. Don't miss your chance and let another sexy mini skirt pass you by. Call 894-BODY (2639) and get a Velasmooth program NOW.



Army kickboxers go after village thugs

From page A1

ten wind of the lanky boyish-looking instructor who could topple much bigger opponents with a combination of knee and elbow strikes done the muay thai way.

"This, to me, is the best and easiest way to do hand-to-hand combat," said Vallega, 28, in an interview with the INQUIRER.

Not necessarily undermining the value of other disciplines, he said the technique was custom-fit for field battle. It was originally a "battlefield skill" learned by every Thai soldier centuries ago, he explained.

The discipline, relatively new in the Philippines where other martial arts like taekwondo and aikido are more popular, was a welcome addition to the training of soldiers or jungle fighters belonging to the 2nd ID.

Before Vallega entered the picture, most of the soldiers picked for the defense-and-tactics course already had some background in judo and karate.

The two months that the soldiers spent under the tutelage of Vallega comprised the last phase of their six-month training before being deployed on sensitive field assignments.

At first, the batch would have 15 to 30 students. At the end of the training, the number would be pruned to just four or five "graduates."

Vallega said it wasn't easy to earn the trust and respect of the soldiers if instructors like him simply gave commands and lectures.

In fact, most of the trainees were much bigger than their 5-foot-2, 100-pound teacher and could seemingly take him down with a single blow.

Vallega knew, too, that his resumé won't erase any doubts. He has been a master of muay thai since 1996, including its predecessor, muay boran or ancient boxing.

Vallega's expertise isn't confined to the ring.

Sometime in 2003, he was walking near the train station on Buendia Avenue, Makati, when five men attacked him. One hit him with a lead pipe and a second one stuck an ice pick into his left elbow.

They probably regretted messing with Vallega, who said both of his attackers ended up on the pavement after some vicious punches to their throats. The other three ran away.

In one session at the 2nd ID's base in Camp Capinpin, Vallega asked for a volunteer. A well-built Army man stood up. He was about five inches taller than Vallega.

He asked the soldier to attack him with impunity—any which way he could.

The volunteer threw a punch and missed. Before he could launch another attack he was on the floor with Vallega executing strikes using some of the vital points of contact.

From that day on, the soldiers were convinced that this was one martial art they couldn't afford to miss.

Lesson in three parts

Vallega's lessons are divided into three parts: Visualization, mental screening and application.

The first phase teaches soldiers how to "survey" an opponent, identifying his weak points before making a strike.

"Do it without hesitation. If not, failure is likely," Vallega told his students.

The second phase of mental screening hones the soldiers' instinct to strike the muay thai way by using the eight points of contact—hands, feet, elbows and knees.

The third phase serves as a kind of "cleansing," separating the men from the boys.

Vallega trained the soldiers to integrate a standard jungle knife into the technique without necessarily relying heavily on the knife.

"If you can take down your opponent without it, no problem. The knife is really optional," he reminded his students.

During his 4-year stint at Camp Capinpin, Vallega trained around 900 soldiers. To his knowledge, a number of them had since crept behind enemy lines.

Not to be left behind, the Special Action Force (SAF), the Philippine National Police's own elite unit, tapped Vallega's services two years ago.

As in the case of the jungle fighters, Vallega not only taught the policemen the physical and lethal aspects of muay thai, he included discussions on the rich history of the sport, its meaning and importance to the Thai way of life.

It's not difficult for Filipinos to grasp the concept. "We are basically borrowing a foreign discipline," Vallega said.

Respect was foremost in each teaching session. This was how the Thais intended it to be. More importantly, the idea was to show deep respect to the source of the knowledge, he said.

Once in a while, Vallega would bump into a former student. Looking imposing in a beret and fatigues, the soldier would acknowledge Vallega with a traditional "wai kru" (honor bow).

A muay thai teacher always gets a kick out of that.

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Soldier-athletes tapped to guard Magdalo men

From page A1

Maj. Augusto de la Peña, newly installed Philippine Air Force spokesperson, said nine soldier-athletes would be among the 62 soldiers tasked with guarding three Magdalo officers in their court hearings on rotation basis.

The nine include a karatedo expert, a basketball player, four soccer players, two arnis experts and a tennis player. The athletes form part of the Philippine Air Force Task Force: Pangangalaga which provides security to the three Air Force Magdalo rebel officers who face coup d'etat charges for taking part in the 2003 Oakwood mutiny.

So whenever Capt. Segundino Orfiano Jr. and First Lieutenants Francisco Ashley Acedillo and Billy Pascua attend court hearings in Makati City, one or more of the nine soldier-athletes escort them.

De la Peña declined to identify any of the nine soldier-athletes. "We can't divulge their names for security reasons because they are also performing a sensitive function," he said.

These soldier-athletes have seen action in national sporting events, the Air Force spokesperson added.

De la Peña also declined to say if there would be soldier-athletes guarding Orfiano, Acedillo and Pascua at their hearing today.

A source close to the rebel officers told the INQUIRER that a marathon runner and a boxer had also been assigned to guard Orfiano and Pascua, respectively.

The source, who requested anonymity, said that Pascua jokingly asked to be handcuffed to the boxer's stronger arm.

"*Para nga naman hindi matamaan ng malakas* (So Pascua won't be hit by the stronger arm)," the source said, chuckling.

However, De la Peña said there were no boxers or marathon runners in the task force's roster of soldiers.

He also said the task force did not intentionally assign soldier-athletes to the Magdalo officers because the former could control the latter with brute force developed from constant training in sports.

"They are mainly soldiers with duties to perform. And just like any other soldier, they are physically fit," De la Peña said.

The source said the three Magdalo junior officers had been exercising regularly in their detention compound at PAF headquarters in Villamor Air Base.

Could they be planning to outsprint their athletic escorts?

More likely, they're fighting off weight gain and muscle atrophy. After being detained for nearly three years, they're not fit enough to tackle their brawny security escorts.

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Mechanics:

1. The coverage of this raffle promotion is nationwide
2. The promo shall run from May 1, 2006 to April 30, 2007.
3. A raffle coupon with unique text code shall be given to the Over The Counter (OTC) customers for every P250 worth single purchase of selected Moldex products from Participating Outlets. Purchases intended for projects which are made directly from Moldex Products, Inc (MPI) office through its sales engineers, the Direct Buying (DB) customers, e g Contractors, Sub-contractors, Project Owners, Home Buyers shall be entitled to raffle coupons at the same rate as with OTC customers
4. Selected Moldex products are Moldex Blue in sizes of 20mm to 63mm, Moldflex, Sanmold Extra, Sanmold Regular, Moldcon, Electrosafe, Watersafe, Duramold SDR 34, PEIP, PE Safe, HDPE in sizes of 20mm to 63mm, Ekoplastik pipes and fittings, and Moldex Solvent Cement
5. Each raffle coupon with the text code shall qualify as 1 raffle entry. Participants may opt to send up to 40 text codes to get 40 raffle entries or an equivalent of at least P10,000 worth of Moldex products in one sending, by texting the range of the stubs given in series
6. Each raffle coupon has a 10-digit alpha-numeric codes, a combination of series and random
7. To join the promo, participants (OTC customers &/or DB customers) must text to register and send the text codes to get raffle entries
8. To register, participants must text MOLDEX REG <name>/<add>/<age>/<gender> to 2982 for Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular, and 2953 for Smart & Talk N Text subscribers
   Example:
   MOLDEX REG Joseph Guerrero/168 South Dr SJMM/28/M, and send to XXXX.
   Note
   Registration is one time only. Only one name can be registered under one cellphone number. Registration is free of charge. Text messages are not case sensitive
9. After registration, participants will receive a confirmation message and instructions on how to get a raffle entry
   Message (Successful registration).
   "Thank u! U now hav a chance to win P1,000,000 cash prize in d grand draw & P10,000 cash prizes in d bi-monthly draws. To earn raffle entries, txt MOLDEX JOIN <text code range>/<partner> to XXXX. Ex. MOLDEX JOIN AA001_CMM23 - AA040_SF2K8/ABC Hardware P2.50/txt. U may text in text code range up to 40 entries or P10,000 worth of Moldex products. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-04/30/07, per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ad/postrs 4 more dtails. Registration is free
   Message (Unsuccessful registration):
   "Sorry! U texted incomplete registration details. To register, txt MOLDEX REG <name>/<add>/<age>/<gender> to XXXX. Registration is free. Ex. MOLDEX REG Joseph Guerrero/168 South Dr SJMM/28/M. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-04/30/07, per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ads/posters 4 more dtails."
10. Registered participants can get raffle entries by texting MOLDEX JOIN <text code>/<partner> for single entries and MOLDEX JOIN <text code range>/<partner> for multiple entries to 2982 for Globe, Touch Mobile subscribers and Sun Cellular subscribers and 2953 for Smart & Talk N Text subscribers
    Example: (Single Entry)
    MOLDEX JOIN AA001_AB2S3/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina
    Example: (Multiple Entries)
    MOLDEX JOIN AA001_AS4C7 - AA040_SF2K9/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina
    Message (Registered Users):
    "Thanks for joining! U now have xx entries & a chance P1,000,000 cash in the grand draw & to be one of the 20 winners of P10,000 cash bi-monthly draws. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-04/30/07 per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ad/postrs 4 more dtails. P2.50/txt"
    Every text sent costs P2.50 for Globe, Touch Mobile, Smart, Talk N Text and P2.00 for Sun Cellular subscribers
11. Consolation prizes shall be given to the secondary partner winners, e.g. Over The Counter (OTC) sales clerk, practitioner's staff, purchaser or broker. All participating outlets together with MPI sales office shall receive, maintain and record transaction related to Moldex products during the promo period. Reference to the distributed ledgers shall be done to determine the secondary partner winners. In case the participating outlet ledger is lost or entries shows alterations, incomplete information, erasures, damaged or have been tampered with, ledger with the winning entry shall be considered void and the corresponding consolation prize shall be forfeited in favor of MPI with prior notice and approval of DTI.
12. In the event that the drawn OTC customer or DB customer entry shows inconsistencies between the texted partner information and MPI's list of participating outlet or the ledger information, such entry shall be considered void. Moldex Products Inc. has the right to disqualify and draw another winners with DTI approval
13. To verify number of entries sent, text MOLDEX ENTRY to 2982 for Globe, Touch Mobile & Sun Cellular subscribers and 2953 for Smart & Talk N Text subscribers. P2.50 per text
    Message:
    "You now have xxxx entries. To send more entries, txt MOLDEX JOIN <text code(s)>/<partner's name> to xxxx. Ex. MOLDEX JOIN AA001_AB2S3/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina. To send multiple entries, jaz txt d 1st stub code & d last stub code. Ex. MOLDEX JOIN AA001_AS4C7 - AA040_SF2K9/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina. U may snd in txt code range up to 40 entries or P10,000 worth of Moldex products. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-04/30/07 per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ad/postrs 4 more dtails. P2.50/txt"
14. If participants wish not to receive any announcements they will key-in MOLDEX OFF to 2953 for Smart, Talk N Text and 2982 for Globe, Touch Mobile and Sun Cellular.
    Message:
    "You will not receive any text broadcast from Basta Tubo, I-Moldex Mo Raffle Promo 2. Thank you for joining. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-04/30/07 per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ad/postrs 4 more dtails."
15. For help in keywords for the promo, user can text in MOLDEX HELP to 2982 for Globe, Touch Mobile & Sun Cellular and 2953 Smart and Talk N Text. P2.50 per text
    Message:
    "To register, txt MOLDEX REG <name>/<add>/<age>/<gender>. Ex: MOLDEX REG Joseph Guerrero/168 South Dr SJMM/28/M. To send ur entries, txt MOLDEX JOIN<textcode>/<partner> for single entries. Ex. MOLDEX JOIN AA001_CMM23/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina, and MOLDEX JOIN <text code range>/<partner> for multiple entries to XXXX. Ex. MOLDEX JOIN AA001_CMM23 - AA040_MGD25/ABC Hardware or Arch. C. Medina. Promo runs frm 05/01/06-03/30/07 per DTI-NCR prmt#0626. Series of '06. See print ad/postrs 4 more dtails. P2.50/txt"
16. There will be twenty one (21) draw dates with the following prizes

DRAW DATES	PRIZE	No. of Winners
June 15, 2006, June 30, 2006, July 14, 2006, July 31, 2006, Aug. 15, 2006, Aug 31, 2006, Sept. 15, 2006, Sept 29 2006, Oct. 13, 2006, Oct 31, 2006, Nov. 15, 2006, Nov 29, 2006, Dec. 15, 2006, Dec 28, 2006, Jan. 15, 2007, Jan 31, 2007, Feb. 15, 2007, Feb 28, 2007, March 15, 2007, March 30, 2007	PhP10,000	a. One (1) winner per draw (OTC customer or DB customer)
	PhP7000	b. One (1) partner winner per draw (Participating Outlet or Practitioner or Agent)
	PhP3000 (Consolation)	c. One (1) secondary partner winner per draw (OTC sales-clerk or Practitioner's staff or Broker or Purchaser)
April 30, 2007 (One Draw Only)	PhP1,000,000	a. One (1) winner (OTC customer or DB customer)
	Php1,000,000	b. One (1) partner winner (Participating Outlet or Practitioner or Agent)
	Php100,000 (Consolation)	c. One (1) secondary partner winner (OTC salesclerk or Practitioner's staff or Broker or Purchaser)

17. The winners can win only once during the monthly draws. Raffle draws shall be held at the 8th floor of Moldex Bldg., Ligaya cor. West Ave., Quezon City. Draw dates are as follows:

Monthly Draw	Deadline for Texting Codes	Draw date
No 1	June 14, 2006, 3:30pm	June 15, 2006, 3:30pm
No 2	June 29, 2006; 3:30pm	June 30, 2006, 3:30pm
No 3	July 13, 2006, 3:30pm	July 14, 2006, 3:30pm
No 4	July 30, 2006, 3:30pm	July 31, 2006, 3:30pm
No 5	Aug 14, 2006, 3:30pm	Aug 15, 2006, 3:30pm
No 6	Aug 30, 2006, 3:30pm	Aug 31, 2006, 3:30pm
No 7	Sept 14, 2006, 3:30pm	Sept 15, 2006, 3:30pm
No 8	Sept 28, 2006, 3:30pm	Sept 29, 2006, 3:30pm
No 9	Oct. 12, 2006, 3:30pm	Oct. 13, 2006, 3:30pm
No 10	Oct. 30, 2006; 3:30pm	Oct 31, 2006, 3:30pm
No 11	Nov. 14, 2006; 3:30pm	Nov 15, 2006, 3:30pm
No 12	Nov 28, 2006, 3:30pm	Nov 29, 2006, 3:30pm
No 13	Dec. 14, 2006, 3:30pm	Dec 15, 2006, 3:30pm
No 14	Dec 27, 2006, 3:30pm	Dec 28, 2006, 3:30pm
No 15	Jan 14, 2007; 3:30pm	Jan 15, 2007, 3:30pm
No 16	Jan 30, 2007; 3:30pm	Jan 31, 2007; 3:30pm
No 17	Feb. 14, 2007, 3:30pm	Feb 15, 2007, 3:30pm
No 18	Feb 27, 2007; 3:30pm	Feb 28, 2007, 3:30pm
No 19	Mar 14, 2007, 3:30pm	Mar 15, 2007, 3:30pm
No 20	Mar 29, 2007; 3:30pm	Mar 30, 2007; 3:30pm
Grand Draw	Apr. 29, 2007, 3:30pm	Apr. 30, 2007, 3:30pm

18. All non-winning entries sent from May 1, 2006, 10:00am to April 29, 2007, 3:30pm are qualified for the monthly and grand draw. Grand draw will be held at the 8th floor of Moldex Bldg., Ligaya cor. West Ave., Quezon City on April 30, 2007, 3:30pm in the presence of a DTI representative.
19. All winners of the cash prizes shall be notified by a call from 7777 from Moldex Products, Inc.'s authorized representative and by registered mail. To claim the prizes, winners must proceed to the 8th floor of Moldex Bldg., Ligaya cor. West Ave., Quezon City. Winners must present the following: 1 Winning SIM card 2 The untampered Raffle coupon with text code 3 Registered mail from Moldex Products, Inc. 4 One (1) valid ID with photo (like company, passport, driver's license, etc.) when claiming prize
20. In case any of the said requirements for claiming are missing or the coupon was damaged or tampered with, Moldex Products Inc. has the right to disqualify and draw another winner with DTI approval. Provincial consolation prize winners will be notified via a registered mail stated that the winners can claim their prize to the Moldex Sales Representative indicated in the registered mail
21. The winner may be required to take part in any publicity accompanying or resulting from this promotion. All entries become the property of Moldex Products Inc., who may use entrants' personal details for future promotional and marketing activities
22. Redemption of prizes shall be within sixty (60) days from receipt of registered mail. All the names of the winners in the grand draw will be published in a national broadsheet. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of the registered mail shall be forfeited in favor of Moldex Products, Inc. with prior approval of DTI
23. Prizes exceeding PhP10,000 shall be subject to 20% tax and shall be shouldered by the winner
24. Employees of Moldex Group of Companies, Globe Telecom, Innove Communications, Smart Telecom, Sun Cellular, MyPortal exchange Inc., spouses and its affiliate companies, their advertising manpower and security agencies, and their relatives up to the third degree of consanguinity or affinity, are disqualified to join in this promo
25. All decisions of Moldex Products Inc. and its agents are final with the concurrence of the DTI based on the issued DTI-NCR Permit No. 0626 Series 2006

Per DTI - NCR Permit No. 0626, Series of 2006
Moldex Hotline No.: 373-1000

2 Abu tipsters share ...

From page A1

sented tomorrow, comes from the US state department "Rewards for Justice" program, which provides cash rewards for information leading to the arrest of terrorists involved in acts against Americans.

US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop said this was the third time the mission was paying Filipino informants under the program, noting that the scheme has been "very effective" in the Philippines.

There were now a total of six recipients of rewards in the country, counting the two who are set to receive P26 million, he said.

The three "major payouts" had handed over a combined sum of almost $2 million, he said.

Worldwide, the reward system has paid out about $63 million to individual tipsters in the US-led war on terror, according to Lussenhop.

US counterterrorism training of Filipino troops has been credited with successes against the Abu Sayyaf, which is on a US list of terrorist organizations. *Reports from AP and Volt Contreras*

Nothing to fear with antiterror law, say cops

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE NEED FOR AN antiterror law far outweighs the fear that it could be abused by government security forces, according to the police.

Senators recently expressed their reservations about supporting the antiterror bill after five supporters of ousted President Joseph Estrada claimed they were arrested without warrants and tortured by military agents last week to force them to admit they were part of a communist hit squad out to assassinate President Macapagal-Arroyo and members of her Cabinet.

"The need for an antiterror law is greater than the fear that this is going to be abused," Philippine National Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said yesterday.

"We do not have to wait for a 9/11 to tell us that there is a need for it," he said, adding that current laws were inadequate to address terrorism.

Claims of arbitrary arrests and torture by the "Erap 5" would remain debatable until the courts decided on this, he added.

"But the need for an antiterror bill is here and now. That's the reason why countries, even advanced countries, have their antiterror bills to address an extraordinary situation," Pagdilao said.

Police favor an antiterror law so they could detain suspected terrorists for longer periods of time. This would give them enough time to investigate and follow up on leads.

Sen. Sergio Osmeña III said he was originally for the antiterror bill but the Erap 5 incident made him have "serious thoughts" about its passage.

The incident showed that it was possible for the government to stretch the limits of the bill to "persecute innocent civilians," Osmeña said.

Sen. Aquilino Pimentel said the incident sparked fears that human rights violations could escalate once an antiterror bill was signed into law.

But police said the need for such a law "cannot be overemphasized."

Past bombings and kidnappings had clearly defined the Philippines as a target for terrorism, Pagdilao said.

And how would the government deal with fears of abuse?

"The legislature should come up with a law that would provide safeguards against abuse," Pagdilao said.

"On the part of the PNP, rest assured that we abide strictly [by] the rules governing arrests... and searches," he added.

Become Pinoy in Taiwan

FORMER Filipinos who have become Taiwanese citizens may reacquire Philippine citizenship without having to report to the Bureau of Immigration in Manila.

BI Commissioner Alipio Fernandez Jr. yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with Tomas Alcantara, chair of the Taipei-based Manila Economic and Cultural Office authorizing the latter to process and approve applications for dual citizenship.

Previously, those seeking dual citizenship had to travel to the Philippines.

Leila B. Salaverria

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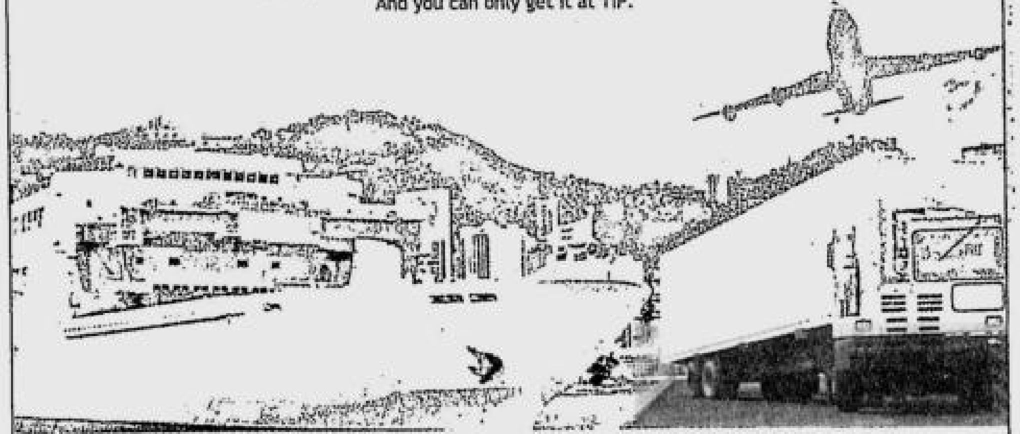

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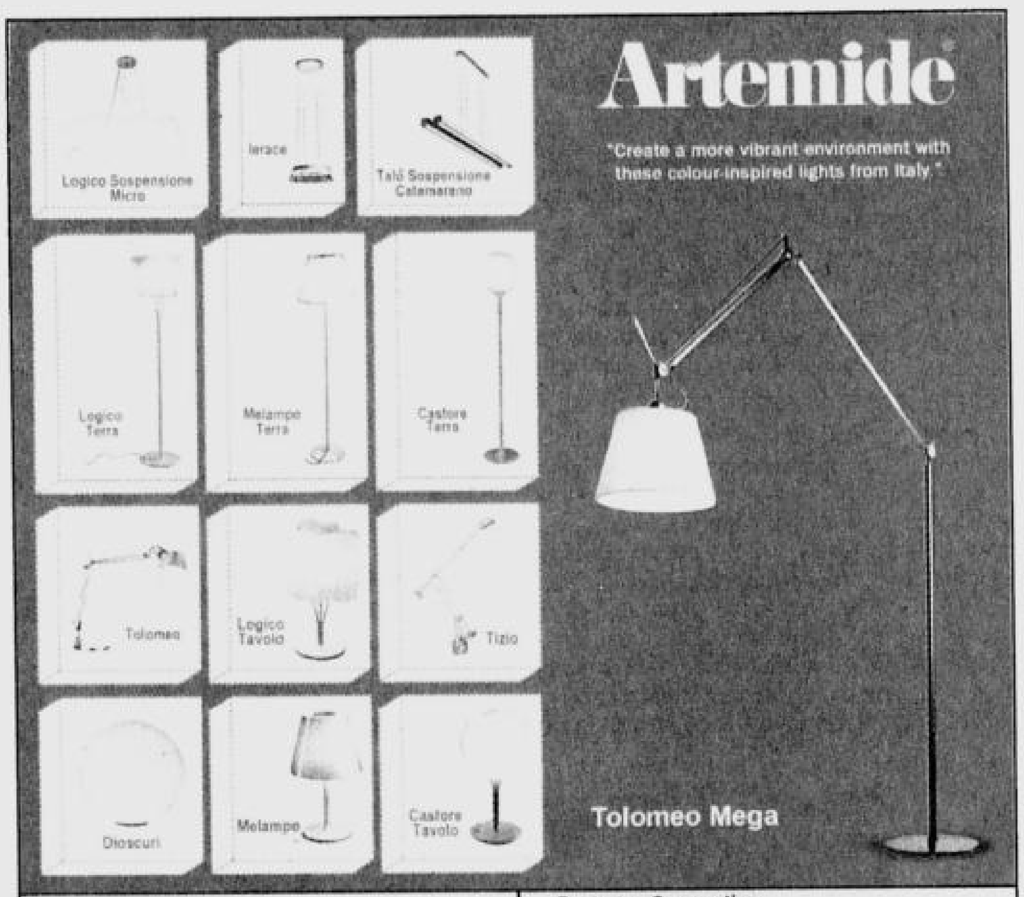

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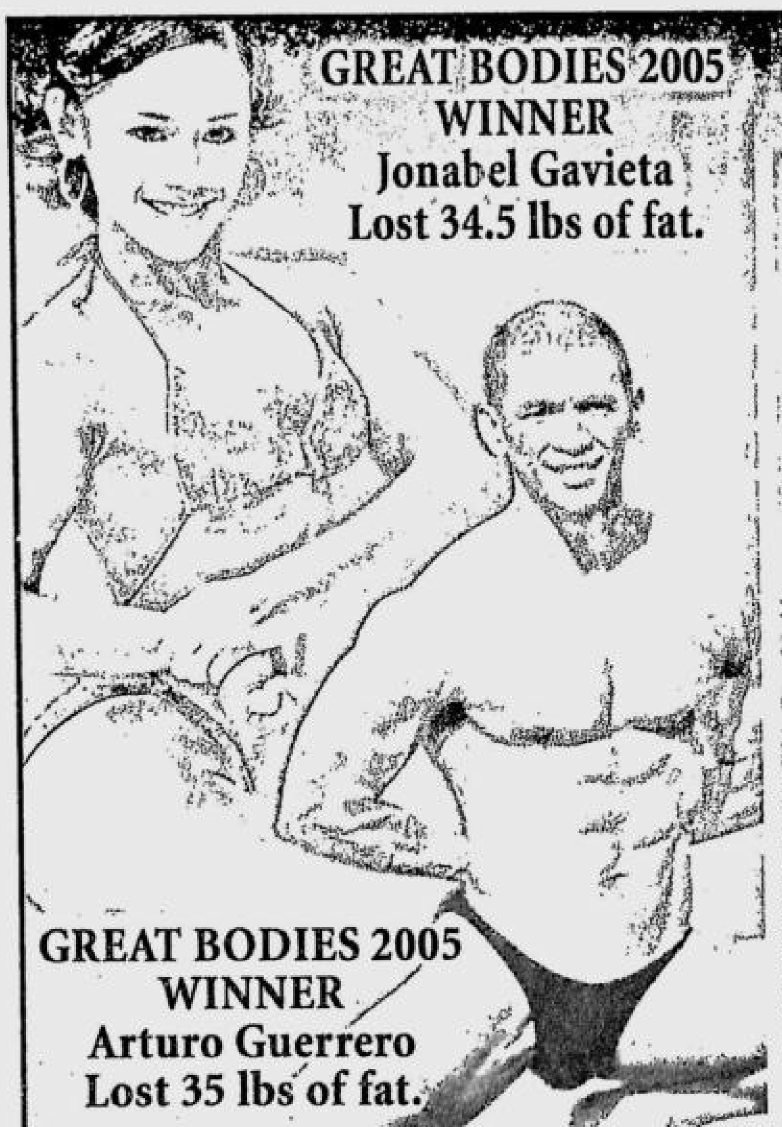

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60 Metro schools, hospitals, buildings vulnerable to big quake

From page A1

eas. No damage was reported.

"They were weak though some people felt them. They happened separately, and were not connected to the killer quake in Indonesia," Phivolcs chief Renato Solidum said.

LTO office, Children's Hospital

Aside from schools, three hospital buildings, three sports complexes and the two-story Letas building of the Land Transportation Office in Quezon City were among those found to have structural problems.

The medical facilities in urgent need of detailed evaluation are the three-story main building and the three-story spinal ward of the Philippine Orthopedic Center, and the Philippine Children's Medical Center, all in Quezon City.

Aside from the three buildings in the PhilSports Arena in Pasig City, the other damaged sports facilities were identified as the one-story Quirino Grandstand and the one-story steel-framed building in the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, both in Manila.

The task force recommended that the buildings be evaluated immediately to determine what needed to be done to improve them.

Detailed evaluation

"Sixty buildings, (mostly school buildings) have been recommended for urgent detailed evaluation due to severity of damage that can be life threatening in case of major earthquake or any natural or manmade calamity," Public Works Undersecretary Salvador Pleyto, head of the Task Force on Building Inspection, said in his May 19 report to Secretary Hermogenes Ebdane Jr.

Aside from the 60 buildings, 366 others needed to be evaluated, Pleyto said.

His report was based on the task force's inspection of 1,983 buildings in Metro Manila as of the end of last month. The task force, composed of 25 teams of three people each, began its inspection of Metro Manila buildings in February.

Pleyto said the buildings whose damage could be life-threatening were those found to have cracks and weakened supports.

"One of the buildings we visited, the Batasan Hills Elementary School, had cracks in its walls, which could be very dangerous to the students when an earthquake occurs," he said in a phone interview.

The school has four stories.

Pleyto said the inspection teams were more concerned with buildings more than one-story high because these buildings posed more risk should they topple during an earthquake.

He said inspection teams prioritized schools and hospitals because they sheltered children and the sick.

Pakistan

The task force had written building officials to inform them of the condition of the inspected structures.

The Task Force on Building Inspection was formed last year following the earthquake that devastated Pakistan. Its duty is to determine the condition of public buildings and bridges and recommend measures to improve them so that they would have a better chance of withstanding earthquakes.

"Six bridges were evaluated and rated, and chosen for seismic retrofitting, which to our opinion should be the top priority and its implementation be pursued the soonest since this would require minimal cost," Bureau of Design Director Danilo Manilang said in his Feb. 17 report to Pleyto.

The bridges are the Bicutan Interchange, the left and right Spine Bridge in Navotas town, the Alat Bridge in Caloocan City and the Sto. Niño and and Rodriguez bridges in Manila.

Cost of retrofitting the bridges was placed at P31 million.

Underpasses

The task force inspected a total of 329 road structures consisting of 251 bridges, 68 interchanges or flyovers, six underpasses and four tunnels.

Pleyto said the task force would also conduct inspections of buildings and bridges in the rest of the country.

"It is our duty to ensure that public buildings are strong enough to withstand most earthquakes and calamities," he said.

Ms Arroyo's chief of staff, Michael Defensor, said the President would meet with officials of the National Disaster Coordinating Council this week to assess the government's disaster-preparedness program. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, AP and AFP*

BUILDINGS IN TROUBLE

FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF the buildings that need urgent detailed evaluation, according to the Task Force on Building Inspection of the Department of Public Works and Highways. Only the names of 52 buildings were available. According to DPWH engineers, the names of eight buildings in Marikina not on the list were with an engineer who was out of town.

Caloocan

Cecilio Apostol Elementary School (3-story building).

Makati

Pio del Pilar Elementary School (5-story RC building); Francisco Benitez Elementary School (3-story RC building).

Malabon

Imelda Elementary School; Malabon Elementary School (2-story Doña Maxima Blas Building); Malabon Elementary School (2-story Rodriguez Building); Potrero Elementary School-Main (2-story Vicencio Building).

Mandaluyong

Eight buildings need urgent detailed inspection, but these were not named.

Manila

Araullo High School (4-story building with covered roof deck); Manila High School (3-story building with roof deck); Manuel A. Roxas High School (4-story building with roof deck); Quirino Grandstand (1-story building with concrete roof slab), and the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex (1-story steel-framed building).

Marikina

St. Mary's Elementary School (2-story Building C) and Tañong High School (4-story MCF Building).

Navotas

Bangkulasi Elementary School (2-story Marcos-type); Daanghari Elementary School (2-story C. Bautista Building); Kapitbayan Elementary School (2-story Industrial Arts Building); Navotas Polytechnic College (3-story building); San Roque Elementary School (2-story Rodriguez Building); Tangos 1 Elementary School (2-story Old Rodriguez Building); and the Wawa Elementary School (2-story DPWH building).

Pasay

Kalayaan High School (5-story RC building) and Pasay City West High School (4-story RC building).

Pasig

Bagong Ilog Elementary School (2 buildings); Dr. Sixto Antonio Elementary School; Kalawaan Elementary School; Oranbo Elementary School; Palatiw Elementary School (5-story building); Pasig Central Elementary School; Pineda Elementary School, and the PhilSports Arena (3 buildings).

Pateros

Maria Concepcion High School and Pateros Elementary School.

Quezon City

Batasan Hills Elementary School (4-story Liban Building); Carlos L. Albert High School (2-story Ramos Building); Don A. Roces Sr. Science Technology High School (2-story Technology/Imelda Building); Elementarya ng Pura V. Kalaw (2-story DECS building); the Payatas High School (2-story DPWH building).

Philippine Orthopedic Center (3-story spinal wing ward and 3-story main building); Philippine Children's Medical Center, and the Land Transportation Office (2-story Letas Building).

San Juan

Addition Hills Elementary School (1-story Bagong Lipunan Building 2) and the Sta. Lucia Elementary School (2-story building).

Taguig

Bagong Tanyag Elementary School (2 buildings) and the Daang Hari Elementary School.

Valenzuela

Canumay West Elementary School (old 2-story building) and Marulas Elementary School (2-story MSA Building).

Source: Summary report of the Task Force on Building Inspection

INDONESIAN soldiers unload relief supplies donated by Singapore at an airbase in Yogyakarta. AP

INJURED earthquake victims wait for treatment at a temporary military hospital in Bantul Yogyakarta. AFP

RP doctors to fly 12 tons of supplies to Indonesia

From page A1

for help on roads lined with crumpled buildings.

The team of Filipino doctors, nurses, psychologists, orthopedic surgeons and other medical personnel is expected to leave either tonight or early Wednesday aboard a Philippine Air Force C-130 plane for Jakarta.

From the Indonesian capital, the team will proceed to the city of Yogyakarta. The area affected by the quake stretches across hundreds of square kilometers of mostly farming communities to the south of this ancient city in Central Java.

The Philippine team is led by Dr. Emmanuel Bueno, head of the emergency room at the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City. The assistant team leader is Dr. Romeo Bituin, assistant head of the emergency room at the Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila.

Bueno has taken part in disaster response operations, including those in Southern Leyte where a deadly landslide killed about a thousand villagers in February. He also joined operations in Infanta, Real and General Nakar in Quezon province that were hit by flash floods in 2004.

Bituin was a member of the Philippine humanitarian contingent to Sri Lanka which was devastated by a killer tsunami in December 2004.

Philippine Ambassador to Jakarta Shulan Primavera said an initial check showed no Filipino was killed or injured in the earthquake. According to immigration records, 15 Filipinos were registered as temporary residents of Yogyakarta.

Global aid effort

Countries across the world have pledged millions of dollars, tons of supplies and hundreds of personnel for the earthquake victims in Indonesia.

An aid plane chartered by the UN's children's agency arrived in the city of Solo, about three hours by car from the hardest-hit district of Bantul on Java island. It was loaded with water, tents, stoves and cooking sets that officials said would be distributed later Monday.

On Sunday, three UN trucks brought high-energy biscuits to survivors and two Singapore military cargo planes arrived at Yogyakarta airport with doctors and medical supplies.

But local officials said relief supplies remained inadequate.

"We have received food and medicine from the government but it's not enough," said Suparno, a neighborhood official in Bantul who goes by one name, like many Indonesians. "How can I distribute 40 kg of rice to 1,200 people?"

Hundreds of villagers lined main roads in the disaster zone, holding out donation boxes. They explained that any money collected would be used communally to buy rice, oil and candles.

"We need help. Anything at all," one sign read.

Lack of coordination

Indonesian President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono acknowledged the "lack of coordination" in aid distribution when he visited refugees on Monday and called for government officials to be "more agile."

"I saw in many areas that there are many things that need to be speeded up," he said. His government has promised to allocate $107 million to help rebuild stricken areas over the next year.

Yudhoyono—criticized by some as hesitant to act in the past—spent the first night after Saturday's quake sleeping in a tent along with survivors and moved his office to the nearby city of Yogyakarta to supervise relief operations.

The government said the quake had killed more than 5,100 and left an estimated 200,000 people homeless, most of whom are now living in shacks close to their former homes or in shelters erected in rice fields. Hospitals overflowed with bloodied survivors.

The US military plans to send 100 doctors, nurses and medical technicians from a base in Okinawa to Indonesia to treat everything from trauma and broken bones to lesser injuries like bruises, according to a US Pacific Command spokesperson.

Fending for themselves

Some villagers had received clothing and food, but most were still fending for themselves more than 48 hours after the quake struck.

"All our valuables are gone," said Hardadi, as she cooked breakfast for three families living under a shelter made from fertilizer sacks. "But at least we managed to get the children out alive."

Many survivors worked together to clear the rubble and salvage building materials to build temporary shelters and health centers. One woman was collecting pieces of broken glass from a path—a hazard given that so many survivors were without shoes.

"The people here have the spirit to rebuild their lives," said Prapto Warsito, a village chief. "They have a long tradition of working and living together."

In one village, women brought their children to a well inside a damaged house and threw buckets of water over them as they stood on pieces of a broken table. "All we need now is a comb," joked one woman, who appeared in good spirits despite losing her father and home to the quake.

Prone to disaster

Electricity and water supplies were still down in much of the region on Monday. Torrential rains have fallen at least twice since the disaster, adding to the misery of the survivors.

The quake was the fourth destructive temblor to hit Indonesia in the last 17 months, including the one that spawned the Dec. 26, 2004, tsunami that killed 230,000 people across Asia, most of them on this Indian Ocean archipelago.

The country also faces a bird flu crisis, a spate of terror attacks by al-Qaida-linked Islamic militants and a threat of eruption from Mount Merapi, just north of the quake zone.

Activity at nearby Mount Merapi has intensified threefold since the quake, with lava and hot clouds avalanching 3 km down the volcano's slopes on Monday, according to Indonesian volcanologist Subandriyo. It was not clear if the two events were related.

Indonesia, the world's largest archipelago, is prone to seismic upheaval due to its location on the so-called Pacific Ring of Fire, an arc of volcanoes and fault lines encircling the Pacific Basin. It has 76 volcanoes, the largest number in the world. *Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, Volt Contretras, Christine O. Avendaño and AP*

Journalists' group defends right to bear arms

By Alcuin Papa

AN ARMED JOURNALISTS' group advocating the right of members of the media to bear firearms said it was not a violent group nor was it advocating violence.

Joel Sy Egco, president of the Association of Responsible Media (Armed), told the INQUIRER the group's members had only taken their security into their own hands.

At the same time, Egco challenged the government to solve the murders of journalists which now number 79.

"We are not a violent group. Some of us have been victims. So now our security is incumbent and inherent on us, it's an individual concern," he said.

Egco last week lauded the announcement of Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez that journalists would be allowed to bear arms. But the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines (NUJP) had countered that arming journalists would only "beget more violence."

"We are not picking a fight with the NUJP. It's their policy statement. But we know for a fact that NUJP leaders in Mindanao are armed. What or who is dictating that policy we don't know," Egco said. He added that NUJP leaders had admitted that arming journalists was a viable option.

"There is a need for our protection. Our firearms are for protection and sport purposes only. We cannot keep on blaming the police and government because they might be involved. We challenge the government to prove us wrong," Egco said.

The aim of Armed, he said, is for journalists to "band together to become hard targets and not present ourselves as random targets."

"Our group is one way of coming up with a concerted effort to show government that we are not taking all of this sitting down," Egco said.

He said the group was also calling for the creation of a multi-agency task force composed of the Department of Social Work and Development, Department of Justice, Philippine National Police, National Bureau of Investigation and other media groups to solve in one year all 79 cases involving the killing of journalists.

Egco also said Task Force Newsmen should be made a regular unit of the PNP and not activated only when newsmen were killed.

The group also called for laws creating "press freedom courts" and a special team of prosecutors to handle cases involving press freedom.

It also called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to "talk to the owners of the different publications and media outfits to provide journalists with better employment benefits and packages as a deterrent to corruption."

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Attend the hearing of the Committee on Local Government, scheduled on May 31, 2006 at 1:30pm at the Ramon Mitra Bldg., Batasan Pambansa Complex, Quezon City.

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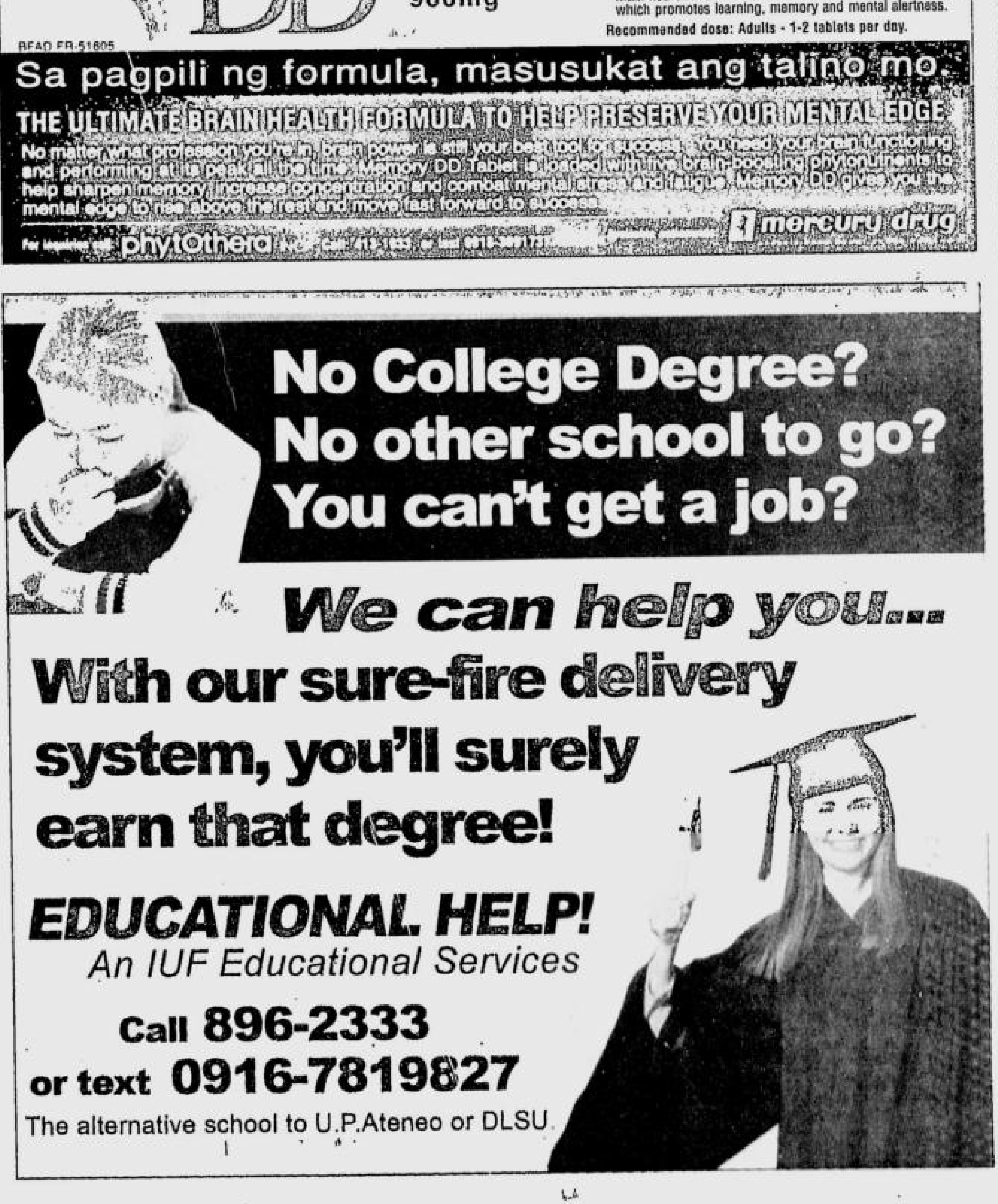
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Ex-Red peace adviser killed

From page A1

Llamas was the 224th militant to be murdered since President Macapagal-Arroyo assumed the presidency, according to an INQUIRER tally.

His death was the latest in a cluster of killings of militants or leftist figures during the past two months. Ten were murdered in April and Llamas was the eighth felled by bullets this month.

A man with a varied past, the 55-year-old Llamas spent 25 years as a rebel, rising to become a regional chief of the Communist Party of the Philippines, before leaving the armed movement.

In 2004, he ran for governor of Albay under the breakaway faction of opposition Sen. Panfilo Lacson in the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino, but lost.

At the time of his death, Llamas was engaged in the scrap business and was probably on his way to Mayon Docks Inc., a drydocking facility, according to relatives. He was shot along a narrow road at 8:30 a.m.

"They really wanted him dead," said Chief Supt. Victor Boco, the regional police chief, adding that he had formed a task force to investigate the killing, The Associated Press reported.

Tabaco's chief police investigator, Insp. Fernando Bolanga, said Llamas suffered three fatal bullet wounds—two in the back and one in the head.

He was pronounced dead on arrival at the Amando Cope Memorial Hospital, a few meters from the ambush site.

Shot at close range

His driver and friend, Marciano Bitara, was hit in the right arm.

Bitara said he was maneuvering the van when the gunmen sidled up to its side and fired at Llamas at close range.

He said he wanted to speed away when he saw Llamas bleeding, but he crashed into a parked vehicle.

Bitara said the attackers made sure Llamas was dead by shooting him again as he was falling.

He said he could not identify the gunmen but their ages appeared to be around 30.

The fatal shot

A witness said that before the ambush, the gunmen had dropped by a nearby store.

Found at the crime scene were four empty shells and a live bullet for a .45-cal. pistol.

Dr. Jose Cope said one of the bullets penetrated the lower part of Llamas's ear, causing instant death. He was also wounded in the shoulder and abdomen.

Llamas was among about 50 people accused by the justice department in February of conspiring with five militant lawmakers, other leftists and rebel soldiers to kill Ms Arroyo and overthrow her administration.

A Makati judge refused to accept the charges but state prosecutors subsequently refiled them.

Llamas had a bounty of P1.5 million on his head when he was wounded and captured in 1995 after a clash with government troops in Sorsogon. Police identified him then as the secretary for Bicol of the Communist Party of the Philippines and national chief of staff of the NPA.

A Quezon City judge ordered his release in June 1996.

Military claim

A political science and philosophy graduate of Albay's Aquinas University, Llamas became a political consultant and security officer of the communist-led National Democratic Front panel in peace talks with the government.

He was a founding organizer of the party-list group Bayan Muna.

In Lucena City, Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., commander of the military's Southern Luzon Command, immediately pointed to the NPA as the suspects in the killing of Llamas.

"By all indications, Llamas's killing was an NPA hit squad operation on orders of the Communist Party of the Philippines," he said in an interview. "This latest killing was a continuing episode of the ongoing internal purge within the movement."

Counterrevolutionary?

Cabuay claimed that Llamas was disowned by his former comrades when he ran for the Albay gubernatorial post in 2004.

"His running for election was not approved by the CPP. Since then, Llamas was perceived to be a counterrevolutionary in the mold of Kintanar, Tabara and Lagman," the Solcom chief said.

He was referring to Felimon "Popoy" Lagman, Romulo Kintanar and Arturo Tabara, all former leaders of the rebel movement who were also assassinated supposedly by their former comrades. *With reports from Ephraim Aguilar and Delfin T. Mallari Jr., and Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research*

SEN. Panfilo Lacson, then a presidential aspirant in the 2004 elections, raises the hand of former New People's Army leader Sotero Llamas during the oath-taking of members of the Laban ng Demokratikong Pilipino in Albay.

JOE GALVEZ

Correction

IN THE MAY 7 ISSUE, a caption of a front-page photo misstated that ancestors of the Ifugao had built the rice terraces in Bontoc, Mountain Province. Ancestors of the tribal folk in Mountain Province built the Bayyo Rice Terraces shown in the photo, while those of the Ifugao built the Banaue Rice Terraces. The same caption misstated the distance from Bontoc to Sagada. The town of Bontoc lies 19 km—not 10 km—from the town of Sagada.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, May 30, 2006
7th Week of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 20:17-27
Gospel: John 17:1-11

Jesus lifted up his eyes to heaven and said, "Father, the hour has come; give glory to your Son, that the Son may give glory to you. You have given him power over all mortals, and you want him to bring eternal life to all you have entrusted to him. For this is eternal life: to know you, the only true God, and the One you sent, Jesus Christ.

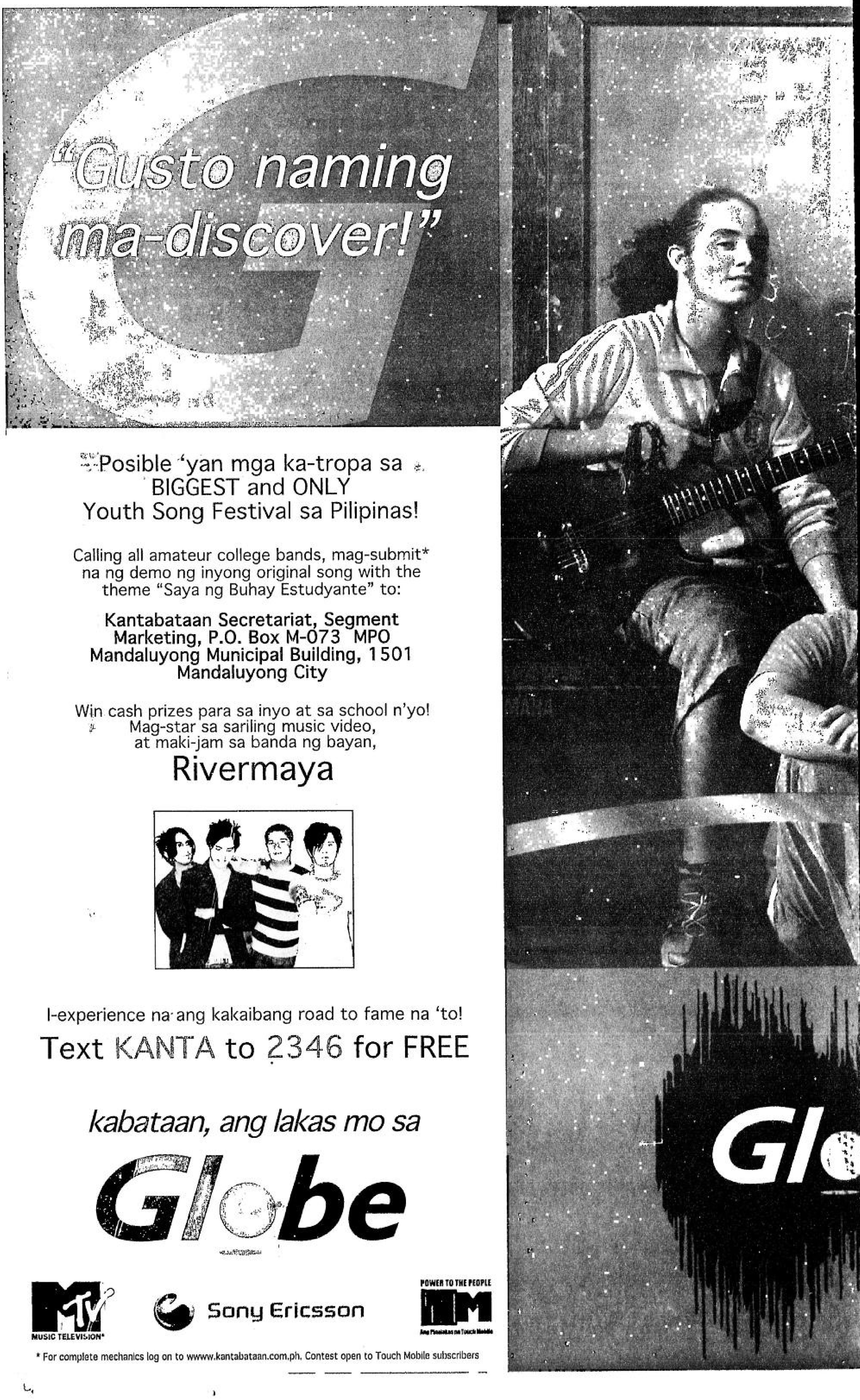
"I have glorified you on earth and finished the work that you gave me to do. Now, Father, give me in your presence the same Glory I had with you before the world began.

"I have made your name known to those you gave me from the world. They were yours and you gave them to me, and they kept your word. And now they know that all you have given me comes indeed from you. I have given them the teaching I received from you, and they received it and know in truth that I came from you; and they believe that you have sent me.

"I pray for them; I do not pray for the world but for those who belong to you and whom you have given to me—indeed all I have is yours and all you have is mine—and now they are my glory. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world whereas I am going to you. Holy Father, keep them in your Name (that you have given me,) so that they may be one, just as we are."

Commentary

Paul is taking leave of his communities, seeking to put things in order before he goes to prison/death. And Jesus does this as his last testament in prayer to the Father, letting us listen to his words. And he prays for his friends, for all of us who come after him who keep his word. We have been entrusted with the Word and with everything the Father shared with Jesus, even his own Spirit of truth and mystery of love. We remain in the world but God is with us: Father, Son and Spirit. We must pray this prayer as our own, together.



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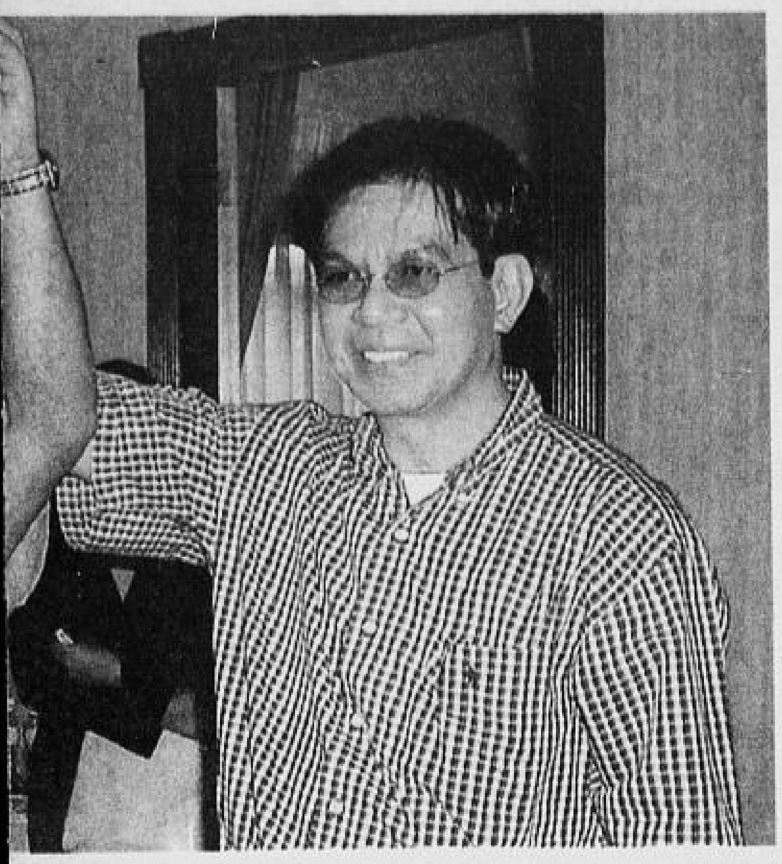


No more safe haven, says Left

From page A1

Ocampo said the criminal information filed by the DOJ in a Makati City court had turned into a virtual "death sentence" for those named as respondents.

GMA accountable

"President Arroyo should realize that her silence over the murders of her perceived critics and her promotion of notorious rights violators are being interpreted as a blanket authority by the military to justify summary executions and extrajudicial killings," said Ocampo.

"She will eventually be held accountable for all these dastardly crimes."

Malacañang denied any hand in the killing of Llamas.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered the police and the interior department to investigate the murder, Presidential Chief of Staff Michael Defensor said.

"I want to make it clear that Ka Teroy Llamas is not an enemy of the government," Defensor told reporters. "He joined the government and helped in many programs of government and that's why we don't have any interest and no one in the government had any interest, even the military, to see harm done to him."

Defensor also doubted that Llamas was a victim of a "communist purge."

For one thing, Llamas had left the movement and had been working above ground with a nongovernment organization, he said.

'A death list'

Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said people should not speculate on Llamas's killing because the police were now investigating the case.

Rep. Liza Maza described the charge sheet as "virtually a death list" put together by the administration to silence dissenters.

She and fellow lawmaker Rep. Teddy Casiño, who were also accused in the rebellion case, said the killing of Llamas and the reported disappearance of leftist Philip Limjoco meant that they had already been judged by the government's "death squad."

"People in the charge sheet are already being killed one by one ... This is very alarming and we condemn the political killings and ambush of Llamas. Nevertheless, we shall continue to push for our advocacy that serves the interest of the poor Filipino people," said Maza.

RP a 'killing field'

Other opposition lawmakers were also shocked by the news of Llamas's murder.

Rep. Roilo Golez of Parañaque said: "This is the inevitable outcome when police and even the military are used to run after political enemies instead of addressing rising criminality."

Golez said he believed the country was now "becoming a killing field for journalists, militants and other prominent personalities, like mayors and former congressmen."

"Whoever perpetrated the killing of Sotero Llamas ... left, right, government ... this is ultimately the responsibility of government," said Golez.

Rep. Rafael Mariano, for his part, said he feared a further escalation of "state-sponsored political killings."

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. and Sen. Panfilo Lacson also condemned the Llamas murder.

A terrible message

"This is a terrible message being sent to our people on the sad state of law and order in our country," Pimentel told reporters.

"It is an indication that the security of people is put at risk simply because they are advocating ideas that may be different from the accepted norm of people in government."

Lacson, who endorsed Llamas's candidacy when he ran for Albay governor in the May 2004 elections, said: "Clearly there's a pattern of a crackdown on the militant groups and the critics of the Arroyo administration by way of assassinations and arrests."

"So I'd like to urge the likes of Rep. Satur Ocampo and company to take care of their own personal security," Lacson said.

State of terrorism

Pimentel said the Llamas case was proof of the "state of terrorism" in place in the country and this had made some senators think twice about advocating early passage of the antiterror bill. *(See related story on Page A5.)*

"Considering recent developments, we are apprehensive that if you enact an antiterrorism bill, you place another weapon in the hands of the administration to harass and run after and exterminate those who are opposed to the government, even politically speaking."

Pimentel said the creation of a task force to investigate Llamas's killing was a "good start," but the best solution would be for Ms Arroyo to issue an order to stop the killings, identify the killers and prosecute them.

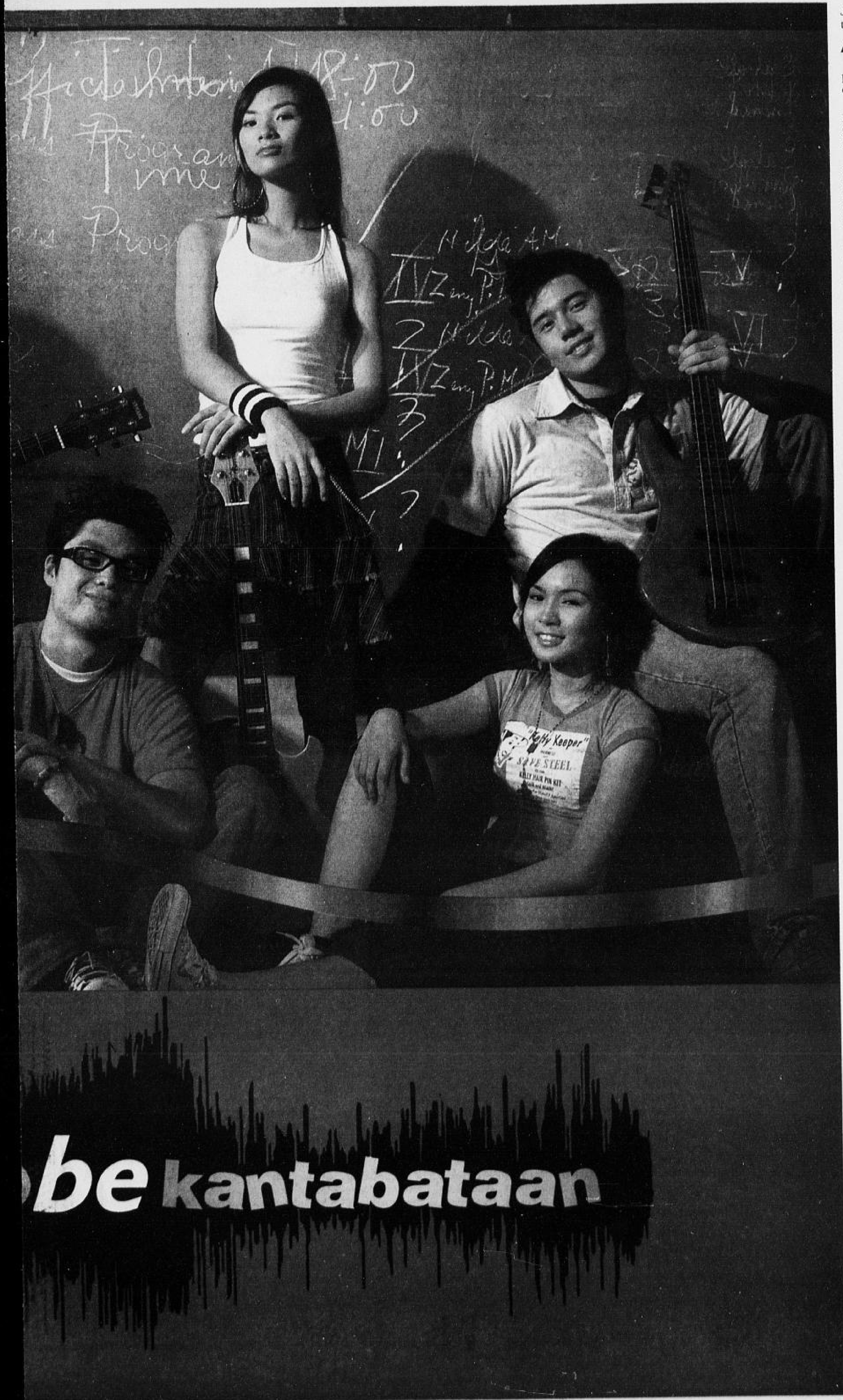
Randall Echanis, deputy secretary general of the Kilusang Magbubukid ng Pilipinas who had been also impleaded in the rebellion case, admitted that he, too, feared for his life.

"The military and police converted the (charge sheet) list into a death warrant," he said. "The 51 persons, especially those who are in the legal parliamentary struggle, are now open targets."

Lomibao's order

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao was briefed on the Llamas killing before he left yesterday on a 10-day trip to the United States and Europe.

Police spokesperson Senior Supt. Samuel Pagdilao said Lomibao instructed the police director for Bicol and Southern Luzon "to do everything within their means ... to solve the killings and to bring to the bar of justice those who are doing these." *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño, TJ Burgonio, Jocelyn R. Uy and Luige A. del Puerto*



Church group decries killings

A KEY PROTESTANT DENOMINATION HAS denounced the Arroyo administration for its apparent failure to stop the spate of killings victimizing activists and church workers.

In a resolution, the general assembly of the United Church of Christ in the Philippines (UCCP) lashed out at the government for not conducting "any serious and painstaking investigation."

"Passivity and silence, evasions and denials, distortions and prevarications characterize the stale responses of the establishment, including those coming from the office of no less than the commander in chief," the group said.

The UCCP noted that some of the victims were its own members perceived by the government to be "activists or left-leaning."

They were Rev. Jemias Tinambacan, Jose Doton, Pastor Andy Pawikan and, most recently, Noel Capulong.

Tinambacan, 49, was gunned down in Misamis Occidental on May 9; Doton, 62, in Pangasinan seven days later; Pawikan, 30, in Nueva Ecija on May 21, and Capulong in Laguna last May 27.

"We strongly decry and denounce the ongoing unmitigated killings of militants and activists in our society, and hereby call upon the military leadership, especially the Commander in Chief, President Macapagal-Arroyo, to immediately cause the stopping of these extrajudicial executions and to employ all means to bring to justice, without delay all those responsible for the commission of the crimes," the UCCP said. *Christian V. Esguerra*

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Preparedness

WHILE PHILIPPINE EXPERTS HAVE SAID THAT the deadly tremor that recently struck Indonesia was not cause for alarm, we should not be complacent and instead prepare for earthquakes. Probably no other natural disaster can cause so many deaths and so much damage so quickly and in so little time. Thus, the best way to avoid disasters caused by earthquakes is to take corrective measures now and plan and prepare for them.

EDITORIALS

The Philippines, like Indonesia and Japan, is prone to earthquakes because it lies within the Pacific "Ring of Fire." The Ring, which actually looks like an arc, stretches from New Zealand, passes through Indonesia, the Philippines and Japan, goes north to Alaska and goes down along the western coast of North and South America. About 90 percent of the world's earthquakes and 81 percent of its largest tremors occur along the Ring of Fire.

The Philippines is also earthquake-prone because it is in a zone being squeezed by the convergent motion between the Philippine sea plate on the east and the Eurasian plate on the west. Earthquakes are a fact of life in the Philippines; mild tremors occur almost daily and are recorded by modern instruments in seismographic stations throughout the country.

Since the 6.8 intensity earthquake that struck Luzon on July 16, 1990 and killed more than 1,000 people, the Philippines has been struck by close to 16,000 tremors, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

Can we predict and prevent earthquakes? Unfortunately, the answer is no, unless some way can be found to stop the Earth's tectonic plates from moving. The next best thing we can do is to prepare for earthquakes. We are more fortunate than Indonesia because many of our buildings are built according to the specifications of the Building Code. Some of the more recent buildings are similar to those in Japan that have springs that act like shock absorbers on a car.

Government engineers and inspectors should identify the areas that are at greatest risk, and start with them. The top 10 provinces that are at risk are Surigao del Sur, La Union, Benguet, Pangasinan, Pampanga, Tarlac, Ifugao, Davao Oriental, Nueva Vizcaya and Nueva Ecija. Precautions also have to be taken in thickly populated cities like Metro Manila.

Private citizens, especially owners of big buildings and businessmen, can do their part by having their establishments inspected for cracks in the walls and the grounds around the building examined for faults.

National Geographic in its April issue said that scientists in Japan have settled the question of predictability of earthquakes. It said: "Earthquakes follow a pattern. They have detectable precursors." The government would do well to send the country's earthquake experts to Japan to learn from its scientists. In the meantime, the government and the private sector have to cooperate in setting up a coordinated disaster preparedness program to minimize casualties and damage in the event that "the big one" strikes.

Protection

ONE OF THE MOST RIDICULOUS PROPOSALS to come from government in recent times is the suggestion to journalists to carry guns to protect themselves against would-be assassins. It is a tacit admission that the administration cannot carry out one of the most basic duties of a government, which is to enforce law and order and protect citizens.

If the proposal is to be carried to its logical conclusion, then leftist militants and activists, who are being killed by the scores, should also be provided with guns. Businessmen should also carry guns to protect themselves from robbers, car thieves and kidnappers. Students should also carry guns to be able to fight holdup men and cell phone snatchers. And so on, and so forth. Pretty soon the entire country will be one Wild, Wild, West where anybody who can afford the price of a gun will be packing one.

Nandy Pacheco, the proponent of a Gunless Society and a leader of Ang Kapatiran Party, said: "Willy-nilly, the government promotes domestic armament, 'gunocracy' and the gun culture."

And now it is throwing up its hands and giving journalists the responsibility for protecting themselves. But many journalists can't even shoot straight. No, arming journalists is not the answer; the government simply must enforce law and order and provide protection for everybody, including journalists.

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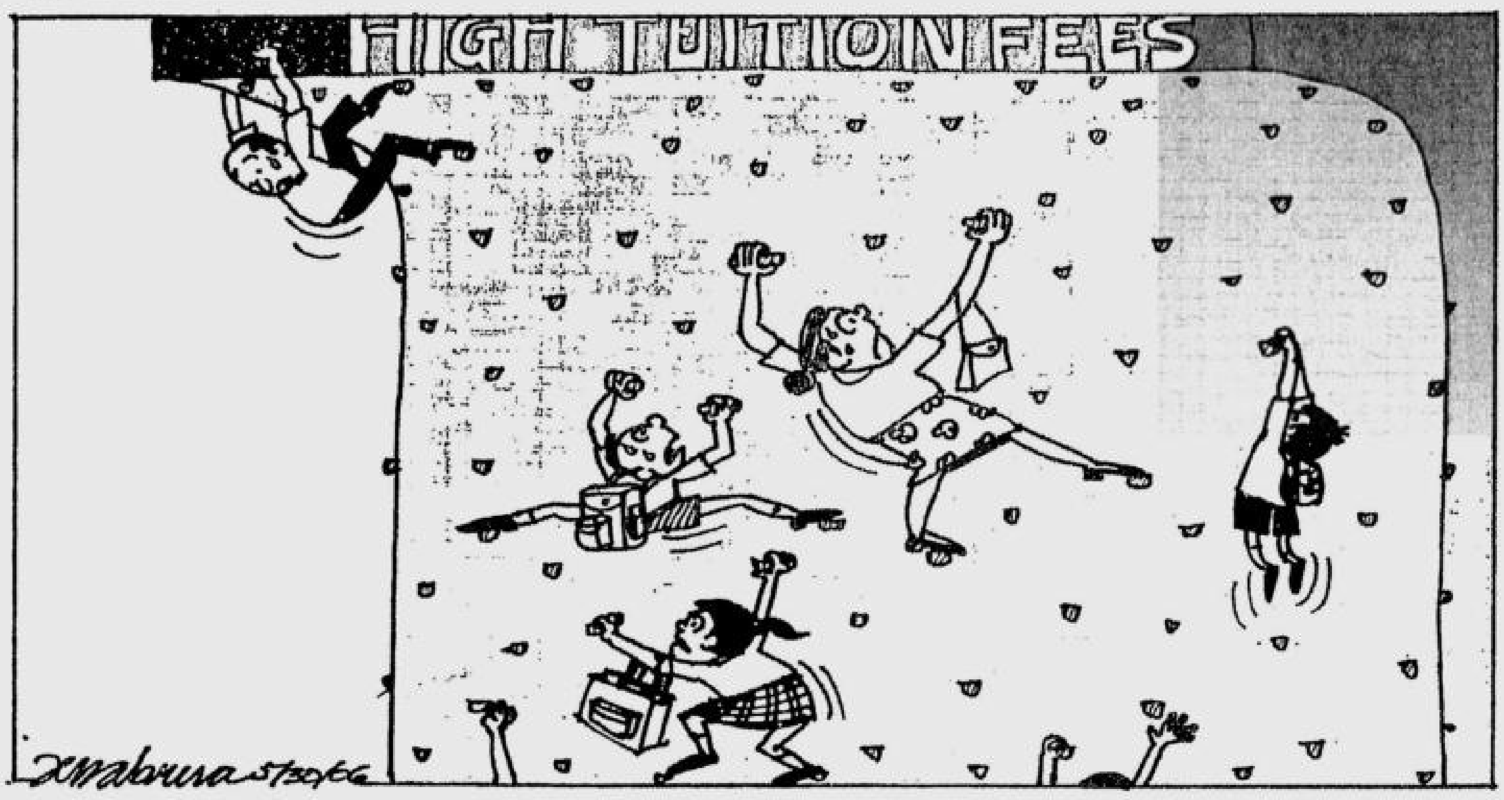

Final nail or clumsy footwork?

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"IT WAS THE FINAL NAIL ON HIS LEGAL coffin that he ironically hammered down himself."

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles said that of former President Joseph Estrada's admission, in court, that he signed bank documents as 'Jose Velarde."

That point is crucial. As Prosecutor Joker Arroyo rightly said at the Estrada impeachment trial, "This case will be won or lost through bank records." But the "final nail" is for the courts to decide. All we can say now is that this is clumsy footwork with names. Thus, we wrote in an earlier column:

"No. Groucho is not my real name,' deadpanned the mustached brother of Marx comedians Moe and Harpo. 'I'm just breaking it in for a friend.'

"Did Erap do a Groucho after the court ruled that he can't be prosecuted for signing, before startled Equitable PCIBank officers, as 'Jose Velarde'?"

That was not a crime in February 2000. The prohibition on aliases or numbered accounts in the Anti-Money Laundering Law took effect only in October 2001.

The account started with a P1 deposit on Aug. 26, 1999. When closed on Nov. 10, 2000, it held P3.2 billion.

Not mine, Erap said, that belonged to my good friend, Jaime Dichavez.

In a February 200 interview, Estrada told ANC TV he signed as Jose Velarde as a "guarantor of William Gatchalian for the account of Jaime Dichavez."

Was this the Jose Velarde everyone had been futilely looking for, many asked then.

Where in the world does a guarantor for half a billion bucks sign on the dotted line with a false name—and on somebody else's bankbook? *Onli in da Pilipins.*

"Was Estrada breaking in, as Groucho Marx did, a name for a crony? Greater love than this no man has, than he lay down his name for a friend."

A name, the dictionary says, is "a word or phrase that constitutes the distinctive designation of a person or thing."

"William Saunders" and 'Jane Ryan" were names that appeared on Swiss bank papers. Edsa I crowds stumbled across them littering Malacañang floors after the Marcoses fled.

It was not illegal in 1986 to have pseudonyms on bank books. But the Marcoses never admitted to a Groucho caper. Unlike Estrada, they didn't sign bank documents before a Clarissa Ocampo.

Filipino maxims on names are linked to integrity, notes the authority on our proverbs, University of the Philippines professor emeritus Damiana Eugenio. "A good name is better than wealth," is an axiom common to Maranaos, Ilocanos, Pampangueños and Boholanos.

In an INQUIRER series, Gilda Cordero Fernando tracked how Filipino names have changed, reflecting the country's checkered history. "Patriotic fervor during the first decades of the American occupation produced names like … Ameurfina (America-Europe-Philippines) Patria, Rizalina," she notes. "Longer names—like Eufrocina, Quitoriano, Sisenando—were lost in transit…. Shorter names of two or three syllables became the in-thing…" Lourdes became Lulu but not Onding and with time, Undo (Raymundo) became Ray.

Stateside names crept in after World War II. "There was a boom in Mary Lous (though it still stood for Maria Lourdes or Maria Luisa)…. The Sixties was also the period when the Russian "ski" was added to nicknames as a form of endearment. So, we had Polski, Netski, Odetski."

The protest years, Fernando says, gave children fighting names like "Alab, Rebo (Revolution), Makibaka…"

The Estrada impeachment tossed up a unique use of code names. Witness Carmencita Itchon, for example, claimed 'Jingle Bells"—then Mayor Jinggoy Estrada—called repeatedly about jueteng takes.

"Exoticism rules the world of names here," Matthew Sutherland wrote in the Observer. Pinoys have "door-bell names:" Bing-Bong, Ding-Dong. Even our former police chief (now senator) is named Ping. Then, there are "repeating names" like Len-Len or Jing-Jing. "They're refined by using the 'squared' symbol, as in Len2 or Mai2."

"Does the randomly inserted letter 'h' give a touch of class to an otherwise average name," like Jhun, Ghemma or Jhimmy? Sutherland asked in his feature titled, "A Rhose By Any Other Name"—a spin off from balcony scene in Shakespeare's 1595 tragedy "Romeo and Juliet.' Remember Franco Zefirelli's brilliant film of this tragedy?

"What's in a name? That which we call a rose / By any other name would smell as sweet," Juliet frets over Romeo's family name. They came from the feuding Montague and Capulet families.

"Is she a Capulet?" a bewildered Romeo asks.

Many bicker over names of places where one resides: upscale subdivision like Forbes or crummy Tondo. *"We go to gain a patch of ground / That hath no profit in it but the name,"* Hamlet groused. But then he lived in a castle, albeit spooky.

Muslims have 95 other names for Allah. Jews would not address God directly. We have a "God Of A Hundred Names" say Barbara Greene and Victor Gollancz in a book that collates prayers of various faiths, including the Christian direct address, "Our Father."

Names in religious history have a function more than just accidental applications. Adam, Genesis tells us, named all creatures. He "called his wife Eve because she was mother of all the living." The Baptist's name was chosen before his birth.

"Our name is legion," screamed the spirits in the Genasarene cave dweller, in response to the demand by one whose name, Luke writes, was chosen before his birth. And the night before he died, he would pray for others: "Protect them with the Name you gave to me."

When are we going to get angry at this? (Part 2)

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I SAW THE EXCHANGE BETWEEN JINGGOY Estrada and the people responsible for the abduction of the "Erap 5" in a Senate hearing last week. Such was the depth of the younger Estrada's fury he spoke in straight English. He had every reason to be furious. The people he was facing at the hearing had just roused five of their supporters from sleep, bundled them off to God-knows-where, tortured them, denied they had them in their custody, and after being found out, showed no contrition. Indeed, they showed only arrogance, dismissing the incident as a tempest in a teacup.

Estrada rightly demanded an apology. He singled out for it AFP Press Information Office chief, Tristan Kison, the fellow who had adamantly denied the AFP had the "Erap 5."

And this is the part where I nearly fell off my seat. Pursued by reporters afterward, Kison first scoffed at the idea of apologizing for the deed before he lapsed into a sullen silence. Why should he apologize? he asked. He had already revised his position.

What can one say? There's a virus going around among this country's government officials, civilian and military, that's deeply contagious. The only thing commendable in Kison's behavior is that at least he did not say that what he did, which was to lie through his teeth when he said they did not have the "Erap 5," was a lapse in judgment. But he shares in the same attitude of his commander in chief and colleagues, now the hallmark of officialdom, which says, "I lied. So what?"

Raul Gonzalez, the incredibly named justice secretary, now says, *"Ay mali!"* But with a twist, because what he means by *"Ay mali!"* is not that they were wrong to have arrested the suspects without warrant and turned them into chopped liver but to have actually released one of them! He has reason to believe, Gonzalez says, that the fellow is a member of the New People's Army who is bent on assassinating GMA and some of her Cabinet officials, including him. If someone wants to kill him, he fumed on TV, his features contorting even more (if that is possible to imagine), he has a right to defend himself.

One is tempted to say that he misses the point. One is tempted to say that in a democracy actually making people disappear for 48 hours, which exposes them not just to torture but to the possibility of being summarily executed without the world knowing any better, is the real crime. But since they are no longer particularly interested in being reminded of the niceties of democracy, since their principle now is simply *"Bastusan na lang tayo,"* let me just say that if what Gonzalez says is true—namely that one of the "Erap 5," Ruben Dionisio, is out to assassinate him among other GMA officials—then we have every right to demand from Dionisio an ardent public apology. Whether he is able to carry out his plan or not, we have a right to ask him to face the nation on TV and say:

"As you all know, assassinations are normally carried out by people half my age, but in my case, though I am 60 and look tubercular, I was compelled by my convictions to contemplate it. I was anxious to protect my children's future. And so I plotted to rid the world of vermin. But if I knew then what I know now, I would never have entertained it. It would have been a disservice to my country and people. Why would I want to get rid of someone who very literally gives this fake government the kind of face it so richly deserves? Why should I want to get rid of someone who, by his actions and utterances, effectively gives the citizens to know what kind of justice they may expect from this regime? I … am … sorry."

The case of the "Erap 5" does dredge up the "Hello Garci" tape and GMA's subsequent apology for "lapse in judgment" by sheer contrast. In the first, despite having nothing but circumstantial evidence to go by (by Gonzalez's own admission), the authorities seized the "Erap 5" without warrant and, for a while, held them at their pleasure. In the second, despite having GMA's and Garci's DNA-imprinted voices in a tape plotting to steal vote, the authorities refused to seize GMA without hesitation and hold her in total displeasure. In the first, the "Erap 5" were never given the chance to face their accusers, they were just given the chance to face their torturers. In the second, GMA was never given the chance to face herself or the truth, whichever causes more pain, she was just given the chance to perform amateur theater before the nation. In the first, for being accused wrongly of sedition, the "Erap 5" were punished by torture and the threat of "salvaging." In the second, for being accused rightly of stealing the vote, GMA was rewarded with the power to torture the nation until 2010.

As I said before, the only thing that's more frightening than that corpses, figuratively and literally, litter our pavement every day is that all we do is shrug our shoulders as we pass them by. Which, like fertilizer to a crop, guarantees they will multiply a hundredfold.

When are we going to get angry at this?

* * *

One of my eagle-eyed readers, Larry Nieva, who works with the Department of Public Health Sciences, Faculty of Medicine, Toronto, sent this:

"The essay (De Quiros) attributed to George Carlin was not written by George Carlin (even his website denies this) but the author is a minister, author and former pastor of Overlake Christian Church in Redmond, Washington. In a response to an inquiry by TruthOrFiction.com, Dr. Bob Moorehead said he wrote it in 1990. It was later published in 1995 in his book 'Words Aptly Spoken.' Paperback: 198 pages; Publisher: Overlake Christian Bookstore."

What can I say? Paradoxically, too, in this day and age, we have more words of wisdom but fewer honest men.

US Senate bill a double whammy for RP

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

A MOST SERIOUS PROBLEM THAT OUR LEGISLATORS should turn their entire attention to is the possibility that our entire health system would collapse. This is due to the prospect of a heavier exodus of Filipino nurses to the United States, after the recent passage by the US Senate of an immigration bill that seeks to lift the limit on the number of foreign nurses who can immigrate to the US. The Philippines is the biggest source of nurses for US hospitals, followed by India and China. Filipino nurses are the most preferred because they are not only better trained than those from other poorer countries, they also have good manners. Hence, that US Senate bill is expected to hit this country hardest.

* * *

For us, however, it's not just nurses we're going to lose, but many doctors as well. It's no secret that a good number of doctors, especially from our provincial hospitals, are studying nursing in order to work abroad. Thus, that US bill is a double whammy for us. To be sure, RP nurses, whose starting salary in the United States is at least $36,000 a year, would contribute fat remittances to our economy. One sector benefiting from them is real property: overseas RP nurses are today's biggest buyers of condo units. The downside, however, is that our health system has suffered tremendously.

* * *

A New York Times article cited government records that over the past three years more than 50,000 nurses have left the Philippines and that 687 private hospitals have stopped operating since 1998, mainly due to the lack of personnel. Dr. Rolando Songco, owner of the Hospital of the Infant Jesus in Sampaloc, Manila, told me some years back that he was unable to implement a long planned expansion of his hospital due to the fast turnover of nurses. On the other hand, many of the 682 government hospitals are reported to have closed sections and departments due to lack of personnel.

* * *

The Times also reported some 118,000 vacancies for registered nurses in US hospitals last month, but this is predicted to swell to some 800,000 by 2020. There is now a big controversy about how to fill that gap. One school of thought is that the US Congress ought to strengthen the US nursing education system by setting up more nursing schools. I submit, however, that the reality is that fewer Americans want to enter the nursing as well as the nursing teaching professions, as many other fields are more attractive financially and require less work. Another school of thought apparently prefers the simpler solution: recruiting nurses from Third World countries like RP and enticing them with immigrant visas. As the Times story noted, many US legislators look at it as a question of market forces at work, but others regard this as "an ethically questionable" strategy, considering what the massive recruitment does to these poorer countries' health care system.

* * *

Our legislators have to look at the problem squarely and find workable solutions. Some years back President Macapagal-Arroyo was asked about this problem and she said, "Put up more nursing schools." But it may not be as simple as that. Where do we get competent teachers, lab technicians and other related staff? These resources are not inexhaustible. Before it reaches crisis proportions, our legislators should address the problem by looking at increasing salaries, giving more tax incentives and scholarships and the like, although that may be like sticking one's finger to plug a leak in a dike.

* * *

Over the past week and a half, the Philippines played host to over 400 delegates from over 80 countries who came for the 31st Unesco-International Theater Institute World Congress. In other countries that have hosted this biennial activity, it was held usually in only one city, as was the case for the 30th Congress in Tampico, Mexico. The RP-sponsored Congress, however, featured a complex structure of interacting layers involving many different venues. There were the Leaders' Forum led by Unesco Secretary General Koichiro Matsuura; the Ministerial Meeting and Experts' Workshop on media content and creative industry; the Theater Olympics of the Nations, which saw various countries showing off their plays, mono-dramas and other artistic presentations; the World Festival of Drama Schools that brought 10 famous drama schools to 10 different regional sites to interact with the faculty and students of various universities and colleges and local folk; 23 workshops conducted by noted foreign drama professors in various schools in Metro Manila; a cinema festival, etc.

* * *

The multilayered congress was, to say the least, quite an ambitious undertaking that predictably spawned tough problems of planning and coordination. But by and large, it proceeded quite well, thanks to the organizers' total dedication and the Pinoys' vaunted bayanihan spirit. For instance, Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry president Donald Dee lent his car for use by an African embassy here for a visiting dignitary's entourage. Hearing about it, PhilExport president Sergio Ortiz-Luis also signified his willingness to make a car available to the congress. The Departments of Tourism, Education and Finance and Manila Mayor Lito Atienza hosted dinners for the delegates, with Education Secretary Fe Hidalgo personally receiving them at the Cultural Center for the farewell dinner after last Sunday evening's closing ceremonies.

So grateful was the Unesco chief for the multilevel arrangements that he gave Cecile Guidote-Alvarez, executive director of the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, a big buss on the cheeks at the airport and a watch as gift. The various cultural presenters also gave Cecile a loud ovation at the closing ceremony as well as a pair of bongo drums from Africa.

One family, one city

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

IN 1903, A 15-YEAR-OLD BOY IN FOOKIEN, China, who had been adopted by the Tan family, earning the name Tan Kit (*kit* being the Fookien word for "adopted"), hopped aboard a vessel bound for Silay, Negros Occidental.

Tan Kit had heard about Silay from other Chinese laborers and traders, who spoke of the many jobs available in the town where sugar production was making families wealthy. Once in Silay, Tan Kit joined a team of older carpenters who were building homes for Silay's most prominent families. There Tan Kit's brick-making skills came to the fore and he was never without a job.

Ten years later, Tan Kit had saved enough for a trip back to China and he traveled there with a grand plan, recruiting relatives and friends for his own house-building crew. While in Fookien, Tan Kit met Tio Sa who struck him as excellent wife material, and who was willing to join him in Silay. They were married, and a few weeks later, they sailed to Silay with the new recruits.

Tan Kit had bet right on Silay's prosperity, and soon he and his crew were constructing the mansions of Silay's elite, including the Ledesma, Golez, Jison and Gamboa families. In 1920, Tan Kit was hired to construct portions of the base of the San Diego Church (now a pro-cathedral), under the supervision of its major sponsor, Jose Ledesma, and using the design of Italian architect Antonio Bernasconi. Later, Tan Kit established a lumberyard business did good business. On the personal front, he and Tio Sa also founded a family, with five natural children and two adopted ones. To blend in better among Silaynon families, Tan Kit adopted the Christianized name of Vivencio Tan Kit and sent his children to school in Silay, where they grew up among the children of haciendero families and other townsfolk.

***

THE younger of the Tan Kit daughters, Maria Corazon, left Silay at the age of 18 after a matchmaker was dispatched from Manila to accompany her so she could meet her prospective groom, Antonio Yu, the scion of wealthy business folk who were making money as dealers of *calesa* accessories.

But because they were making the trip shortly after the close of World War II, Maria and her companion were trapped in a *batil* (large cargo boat) on the open sea for more than a week. By the time they arrived in Manila, Maria's delicate "China doll" complexion had roughened and darkened. It took the matchmaker many minutes of strenuous explanations before Yu could accept the new arrival as his prospective bride.

Still, they wed and it was only with much difficulty that Maria, the pampered and cosseted daughter of Silay gentility, adjusted to life as a wife and mother and the daughter-in-law of disapproving in-laws. But she inherited much of her father's entrepreneurial instincts, and when the *calesa* accessories business she and her husband put up failed, she turned around and founded a laundry shop, which soon expanded into branches with the help of young women she recruited from Silay and Ilocos. It was mainly through her efforts that they were able to send through school their three sons, Robert, Edward and Charlie, who are all now successful businessmen in their own right.

***

I'M SHARING the story of Tan Kit and his daughter Maria Corazon (as re-told by Silay tourism officer Ver Pacete) because I spent much of last Sunday at the blessing, inauguration and turnover of the Silay City Women's Center, whose construction was funded by the Tan Kit family, more specifically the children of Maria Corazon Tan Kit Yu.

Some months back, Charlie Yu paid a call on Silay City Mayor Carlo Gamban to tell him that he and his brothers wanted to fund a project in Silay. "I showed him an inventory of planned projects," recalled Gamban in his message at the rites, mentioning that one of the projects he pushed was an "underground public toilet." Charlie politely turned down the suggestion, explaining that "we want the project to be in memory of our late mother."

It was then that Gamban remembered the proposed women's center, for which Councilor Marie June Pavillar Castro, as chair of the committee on women and family, had managed to secure funding of P250,000 from the women's party-list Abanse! Pinay. I remember Marie June telling me the amount fell far short of the construction cost when I unveiled the model at last year's Women's Day celebration, but that she had "faith that the needed money will be raised."

* * *

SOON enough, Charlie and Robert Yu went to Silay to take a look at the proposed site of the Women's Center, a government-owned lot in Hofilena Subdivision, where a Youth Training Center already stood. With the Tan Kit-Yu's providing the money, the center, an impressive two-story structure, took shape in about three months. After a hurried landscaping job, members of the extended Tan Kit clan, many of them pillars of Silay's business community, women sectoral leaders of Silay, and visitors from Bacolod and Manila, were sitting under white tents celebrating the concrete manifestation of Tan Kit's role in Silay's development, and his daughter's and extended family's continuing commitment to the city. (Abanse! Pinay's money was used to buy furniture and equipment for the Center.)

Vice Mayor Jay Jalandoni, after reading the city council resolutions recognizing the Tan Kit-Yus' philanthropy and naming the street in front of the Women's Center "Tan Kit Road," remarked with some irony that "we can't seem to thank the Tan Kit family enough" for their generosity.

But as long as the Women's Center stands, providing shelter, counseling, training and networking opportunities for Silay's women, the gratitude of the city—and of women everywhere—will know no bounds.

The Cultural Revolution at 40

WORLD VIEW

Liu Xiaobo

'As one generation after another continues to live in denial, the lies will corrode everything they touch'

MAO'S CULTURAL REVOLUTION WAS launched 40 years ago this month, yet, despite 20 years of economic liberalization, its wounds remain a taboo subject. Today's rulers dare not face up to their own experiences or moral responsibility. So, three decades after the Cultural Revolution ended, the national self-examination that China requires has not yet begun.

Of course, the Communist Party has deemed the Cultural Revolution a "catastrophe," a judgment supported by mainstream opinion. But China's rulers permit discussion of the Cultural Revolution only within this official framework, suppressing any and all unofficial reflections. The generalized official verdict, and the use of Lin Piao (once Mao Zedong's vice president and designated heir, who rebelled against him) and the "Gang of Four" as scapegoats, obscures the crimes of Mao and the party, as well as the entrenched flaws in the system.

The Cultural Revolution's major figures, who wrought so much mindless violence, thus either maintain their silence or offer spurious self-defenses. Most victims also use various excuses to bottle up their memories. Those who both persecuted and were persecuted are willing to talk only about their being victims.

For example, the fanatical Red Guard movement swallowed up almost every youth of the right age. Yet all but a few old Red Guards remain silent, saying, "It is not worth remembering." During the Cultural Revolution's early days, the Beijing-based Allied Movement, formed by the children of party cadres, committed horrendous acts of violence, operating under the slogan, "If the father is a hero, the son is a good man; if the father is a reactionary, the son is a turtle egg."

But the memoirs of these rebellious vanguards of yesteryear highlight only their youthful passion and pure idealism, or their sufferings and those of their parents. They do not mention their own barbaric assaults, vandalism and looting, or their kangaroo courts. The revolution's veterans refuse to discuss their arrogant presumption of "natural Redness," or to mention that they rebelled because they wanted power. Worse still, they express no remorse toward their victims.

The Cultural Revolution swept up all of China. So many people suffered that it is difficult to count the number of victims accurately. This is all the more true of the persecutors. Yet few reflect and apologize. The terror of the Red Guards, the armed fights between the rebellious sects, the teams established to "cleanse" the social classes, and all the bloody massacres are simply left to rot in China's memory. The official ban blocks reflection, but human weakness and careerist self-interest among those who participated buttresses the official ban.

Consider Ye Xiangzhen, the daughter of senior Gen. Ye Jianying, who once discussed her family's Cultural Revolution experiences on television. During the early stages of the Cultural Revolution, she played a dual role: daughter of a Chinese field marshal and leader of the rebels at the School of Art in the capital. She complained that she was "too famous," "too active," and "too stressed" at the time, and she provided extensive details about how Mao's wife, Jiang Qing, persecuted the Ye family and how the Ye children went to prison. But she had only 58 words to say about her career as a Red Guard leader—no details or explanation of how she joined, which activities she participated in, and whether she was involved in "physical struggles" or persecuted others.

To call for those people who applied violence and persecuted others to examine themselves and repent is not intended to mete out legal responsibility and moral judgment. But it would at least restore the truth about the Cultural Revolution, summarizing its lessons in order to avoid repetition. More positively, restoring truth would counter the traditional Chinese instinct to blame all disasters on external forces, and might lead to a spiritual epiphany for a people struggling to find value in the emerging new China.

The person with the most responsibility for the catastrophe of the Cultural Revolution is, of course, Mao, yet he remains China's savior. The children of Mao's senior cadres who enjoyed the greatest fame during the Cultural Revolution are now the principal beneficiaries of today's economic reforms.

But this continuing silence by the guilty only transfers the costs to society as a whole, with Chinese life distorted by the weight of lies and evasions. As one generation after another continues to live in denial, the lies will corrode everything they touch. The Chinese people will no longer know what is personal honesty or historical truth, and they will repeatedly abuse, miss, or forsake historic opportunities.

As long as the Cultural Revolution remains unaccounted for, it will not have ended. If historical truth is not restored, the lessons cannot be learned. No amount of material prosperity can make China a healthy society without this necessary reckoning with the past. *Project Syndicate*

Liu Xiaobo is a literary and political critic and current president of the Chinese chapter of PEN.

Letting things go by

YOUNG BLOOD

Graeco Paul U. Antipasado

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

AS I WAS WALKING HOME ONE THURSDAY NIGHT, I SUDdenly saw a man coming towards me as if he was running for his life. The people a few meters ahead on the sidewalk were screaming; "Snatcher! Snatcher!" Moments later, the man whisked by, leaving me bewildered as he turned the corner and disappeared from sight.

Ordinarily, I would have treated the whole thing with indifference and would have forgotten the entire incident by the time I reached the next block. But as I walked farther, I chanced upon the unfortunate victim. Her expression was difficult to describe. She seemed flustered yet relatively calm. She didn't go into hysterics, which is the natural reaction of any who had just been forcibly deprived of a prized possession like a cell phone. What she said distressed me. "*Ingon ko na harangi ang snatcher, pero wala gyud* (I was pleading for someone to block the snatcher, but nobody did)," she said bitterly.

At that moment, I felt as if those words were directed at me. A mixture of shame, guilt and confusion swept over me.

At first I felt indignant or, should I say, defensive. "What was I supposed to do?" I told myself. " What could I have done? This massive human mass was hurtling toward me like a comet! I could have been seriously injured!"

Yet after several blocks of repeating these statements trying to justify my inaction, I realized that perhaps the unfortunate woman had a point. How hard was it really to do something? Would it really have endangered my life if I had prevented the man from getting away with his crime? Was the situation really hopeless?

In the end, I had to admit that it wasn't the truth. I was running a hundred scenarios in my head where I bravely stopped a crime as it was being committed and I became the heroic stranger being thanked by a grateful woman who was again reunited with her possession.

We've all had moments like this, moments when we were given the chance to rise above ourselves and to do more than what is usually expected of us. And how do we respond? Often, it is with indifference, a sense of hopelessness or resignation. And we rationalize this attitude by saying we are powerless to do anything of any significance.

But history has repeatedly demonstrated that when people answer that call, mountains are moved, walls inexplicably crumble and then most amazing things happen. The first Edsa is a breathtaking example of this. Defeat and death would have been the certain fate of the 300 or so soldiers who barricaded themselves in Camp Crame on those fateful February days had the Filipino masses left unheeded that pleas of Jaime Cardinal Sin to protect them. Everybody hated the Marcos regime and everything it represented. But what was truly monumental was that after years of living in fear and acceptance of our unfortunate fate, we decided to finally stand up and stare the dictatorship in the face, regardless of the fact that tanks were barreling toward us and death seemed imminent, at least for a few terrifying hours. And when Marcos blinked, we deservedly regained the freedoms forcibly taken away from us.

The truth right now is as stark as it gets: We let things pass us by. We let our politicians get away with paying lip service to public service even as they line their pockets with public funds. We let corruption flourish by acquiescing to those who ask for bribes and extra favors in exchange for their services. We let our President get away with her "lapse in judgment" and, worse, we are letting her get away again with slowly chipping away at the foundations of our Republic.

I am constantly bothered by the fact that I seem to have developed a thought for ignoring unpleasant situations, crippled by the though of possible humiliation, failure or loss of face. When all has been said and done, I end up wishing I had risked everything to make a difference in someone else's life. It pains me to admit that there were many things I could have changed or where I could have done this instead of that.

Many people have no regrets no matter how badly they screw up. I'm not one of them. So I think I should start helping set things right. Frankly, I have no idea how I can do my part, though I have mastered the art of maximizing the benefits I enjoy as a citizen. I have to learn to act like a citizen—and that is the necessary first step.

Oprah Winfrey was right when said, " Each of us has a personal calling that's as unique as a fingerprint—and the best way to succeed is to discover what you love and then find a way to offer it to others in the form of service, working hard, and also allowing the energy of the universe to lead you."

That Thursday evening, I could have looked at the snatching episode with indifference and just forgotten the whole thing quickly. But somehow I ended up feeling worse than the victim herself.

Graeco Paul U. Antipasado, 20, is a recent AB International Studies graduate of Xavier University-Ateneo de Cagayan, Cagayan de Oro City.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

THEY SAID

Solutions from students

"Do better than us, your teachers, in coming up with the solutions to all the world's problems."

—University of the Philippines chancellor Sergio Cao, speaking at the state university's 95th commencement exercises

Sliding back

"My greatest regret now is that the education reforms we have worked hard to put in place may not survive this administration's preoccupation with political expediency rather than genuine reform, with deal-making rather than development, as well as the lack of appreciation much less commitment to the rule of law and good governance."

—Former Education Undersecretary Juan Miguel Luz, in his resignation letter to President Macapagal-Arroyo

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Child abuse on TV

ON THE MORNING OF MAY 18, I HAPPENED TO watch part of a TV program shown by a major TV network. Though it carried a "Parental Guidance" warning, it featured a "Kiddie Workshop" in acting. In that workshop, a young woman, acting as a schoolteacher, scolded, shouted at and rejected children of kindergarten age who were supposed to be "acting."

At one point, she shoved part of a cake into the face of a child. Every single boy and girl in this "workshop" was reduced to real tears. In a couple of instances, the young woman had the grace to embrace the children at the end of their item. Adults, whom I took to be the parents of these youngsters, were sitting in the audience, some of them shedding tears too.

How can children of that age distinguish between what is "real" and what is only "acting"?

The TV network was exploiting and abusing the children. So were their parents. The people behind the program should be in jail. What they were doing was different only in degree from child pornography.

—FR. SEÁN COYLE
San Columbano,
PO Box 588, 6100 Bacolod City

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The unabated murder of Filipino

ABOUT FOUR YEARS AGO, A letter of mine was published in the INQUIRER letter section. In that letter I asked this question: Does the Komisyon Ng Wikang Pilipino care enough to stop the "murder" being committed every day by many media people against the Filipino language?

I am asking this same question again because the murdering rampage goes on and on. Besides, since I raised the issue, I have yet to see the Komisyon taking a concrete action on the matter.

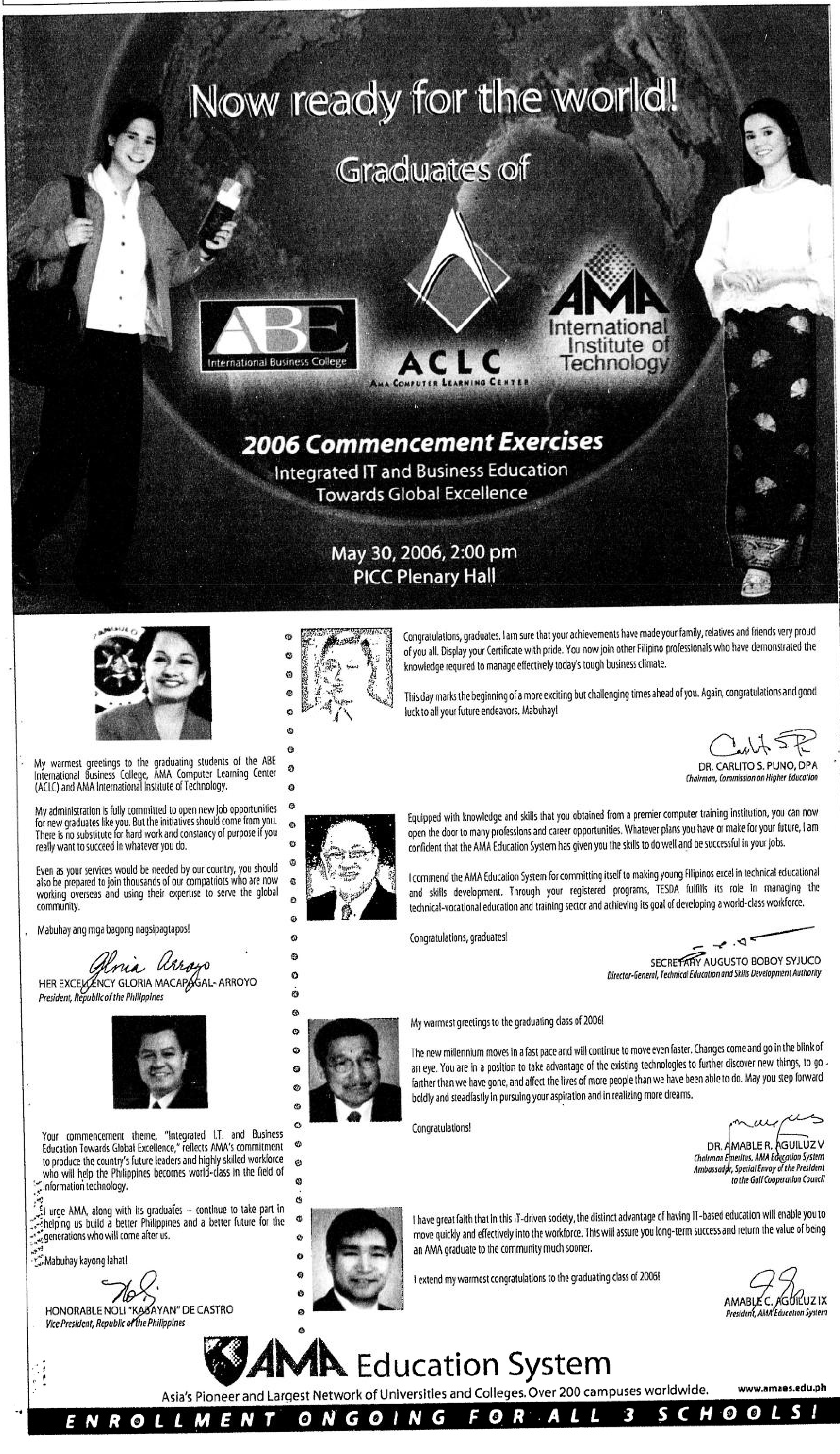
Just watch or listen to TV or radio newscasters/advertisers. The bastardization of the Filipino language shocks this writer, no end: "*natutunan*" for "*natutuhan*," "*natiklo*" for "*nahuli*"; "*natimbog/natepok/natigbak/todas/tigok*" for "*napatay/namatay*"; "*nadekwat/nasikwat*" for "*nanakaw/ninakaw*"; "*utol*" for "*kapatid*"; and many more "gutter terms."

I even suggested, then, that the Komisyon Ng Wikang Pambansa offer refresher courses for media and advertising people, considering that they are the ones who usually mangle the national language instead of being the effective tools in strengthening, enhancing, improving and enriching it.

How can we enrich our language if, on our day-to-day use of it on TV and radio stations—and even by writers of Filipino music—we allow it to be contaminated with the vulgar words of street talk?

People of the Komisyon ng Wikang Pilipino, wake up!

—ELSA M. GAVINO,
elsagavino@yahoo.com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AMA International Institute of Technology
2006 Commencement Exercises
Integrated IT and Business Education
Towards Global Excellence
May 30, 2006, 2:00 pm
PICC Plenary Hall

My warmest greetings to the graduating students of the ABE International Business College, AMA Computer Learning Center (ACLC) and AMA International Institute of Technology.

My administration is fully committed to open new job opportunities for new graduates like you. But the initiatives should come from you. There is no substitute for hard work and constancy of purpose if you really want to succeed in whatever you do.

Even as your services would be needed by our country, you should also be prepared to join thousands of our compatriots who are now working overseas and using their expertise to serve the global community.

Mabuhay ang mga bagong nagsipagtapos!

Gloria Arroyo
HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

Your commencement theme, "Integrated I.T. and Business Education Towards Global Excellence," reflects AMA's commitment to produce the country's future leaders and highly skilled workforce who will help the Philippines becomes world-class in the field of information technology.

I urge AMA, along with its graduates – continue to take part in helping us build a better Philippines and a better future for the generations who will come after us.

Mabuhay kayong lahat!

HONORABLE NOLI "KABAYAN" DE CASTRO
Vice President, Republic of the Philippines

Congratulations, graduates. I am sure that your achievements have made your family, relatives and friends very proud of you all. Display your Certificate with pride. You now join other Filipino professionals who have demonstrated the knowledge required to manage effectively today's tough business climate.

This day marks the beginning of a more exciting but challenging times ahead of you. Again, congratulations and good luck to all your future endeavors. Mabuhay!

DR. CARLITO S. PUNO, DPA
Chairman, Commission on Higher Education

Equipped with knowledge and skills that you obtained from a premier computer training institution, you can now open the door to many professions and career opportunities. Whatever plans you have or make for your future, I am confident that the AMA Education System has given you the skills to do well and be successful in your jobs.

I commend the AMA Education System for committing itself to making young Filipinos excel in technical educational and skills development. Through your registered programs, TESDA fulfills its role in managing the technical-vocational education and training sector and achieving its goal of developing a world-class workforce.

Congratulations, graduates!

SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO
Director-General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

My warmest greetings to the graduating class of 2006!

The new millennium moves in a fast pace and will continue to move even faster. Changes come and go in the blink of an eye. You are in a position to take advantage of the existing technologies to further discover new things, to go farther than we have gone, and affect the lives of more people than we have been able to do. May you step forward boldly and steadfastly in pursuing your aspiration and in realizing more dreams.

Congratulations!

DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System
Ambassador, Special Envoy of the President to the Gulf Cooperation Council

I have great faith that in this IT-driven society, the distinct advantage of having IT-based education will enable you to move quickly and effectively into the workforce. This will assure you long-term success and return the value of being an AMA graduate to the community much sooner.

I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2006!

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
President, AMA Education System

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Passive, indifferent followers of Christ

I WAS APPALLED AT THE REACTION AND the position taken by some Christians—Catholics, Protestants and Born-Again—vis-à-vis the justification peddled by the author of the book and the producers of the blasphemous film "The Da Vinci Code:" both the book and the film are fiction, and that if one's faith is strong, one should not worry about them; therefore, the government's Movie Television Review and Classification Board has no cause to ban the film.

But we have cause to be angry at and rage against Dan Brown, Columbia Pictures and even Tom Hanks.

It is not a question of whether the film has broken any law on censorship. The issue is that the book and the film, in the guise of being fiction, have maligned our Lord and our God Jesus Christ; they have offended the sensibilities of Christians all over the world, who hold the divinity of Jesus Christ as sacred.

If I were to write a book about your father (whom I suppose you hold in the highest esteem), and depict him as corrupt, a murderer, a thief, a womanizer and a wife-beater (though he is not), and justify the story as mere fiction, how would you feel? Then I produce a film based on this book about your father for the whole world to see how evil he is, again justifying it as mere fiction, will you take it sitting down?

It is in times like these that I admire and envy our Muslim brothers who hold Allah and the Prophet Muhammad sacred—in fact, the use of their names in vain provokes in them so much outrage such that they would even sentence to death those responsible for the desecration.

"The Da Vinci Code" is only the most recent in a long list of acts of desecration, irreverence and disrespect directed at our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Even the name Jesus Christ is part of the vocabulary of disrespectful expressions and cuss words in the Christian world. Just watch any movie and programs on television and you will know what I am talking about.

Have we Christians become so passive and have our sensibilities been so dulled by all the evil and corruption around us that we now just accept any trash dumped on us by people who will do anything to make a fast buck? And we are buying that line that the more we make noise about the film, the more people will watch it? We should not call ourselves Christians if we cannot even defend Jesus Christ.

—DANILO P. OLIVARES,
dpolivares@yahoo.com

Neither slow nor pro-capitalist

WE'D LIKE TO RESPOND TO THE CLAIMS OF a militant group that the country's wage-fixing system is "slow, unfair and pro-capitalist." (PDI, 5/22/06)

May we reiterate by virtue of RA 6727 or the Wage Rationalization Act, our regional wage boards always consider the following factors, among others, in setting the minimum wage: the consumer price index, the cost of living, the needs of workers and their families, as well as the need to induce industries to invest in the countryside.

Based on these and other relevant factors, the wage boards, which are tripartite in composition, ensure fair and adequate representation of both workers and employers in the wage-setting process.

Contrary to charges that the wage boards are "hopelessly slow," our records show that wage boards take an average of 45 days to issue wage orders. This is well within the period prescribed by the law, which require public hearings within 45 days from the date of the initial hearing, and the issuance of wage order itself. Within 30 days after the last hearing—not to mention the continuous effort to study the conditions. On top of this, of some 170 wage orders issued, 104 or 61.17 percent were issued motu proprio by the boards notwithstanding the lack of any wage petitions.

The group called Partido ng Manggagawa, Panay-Guimaras Chapter in the Visayas failed to cite that in the industrially growing Calabarzon region, labor and employers, together with the government, have balanced the wage factors.

Moreover, the group failed dismally to pinpoint its charge of "a thousand and one loopholes" that allegedly plague the wage-setting law, even as it stated the need for "exemptions for distressed companies, small and medium enterprises and [micro] enterprises employing 10 workers or less."

Indeed, notwithstanding the fragile economic recovery of our country, the wage boards have nowhere been insensitive to the plight of our workers. Neither have they been biased, as alleged, in favor of the "capitalists." This is because the boards are mandated to set minimum wages "as is economically feasible to maintain the minimum standards of living necessary for the health, efficiency and general well-being of the employees."

In determining reasonable wage adjustments amid changes in the prices of basic goods and services, the amount of increase actually granted by the wage boards, for example in the National Capital Region, the country's largest region, had been almost always higher than the amount needed to compensate for erosion in wages.

In fulfilling this mandate, the tripartite wage boards always make the most careful and balanced decisions, considering that mere reactions without the adequate representation of labor and management could result in potential inflation and joblessness that threaten competitiveness, and finally, trade unionism.

—JAY T. JULIAN,
OIC-director,
Information and Publication Service,
Department of Labor and Employment,
Intramuros, Manila

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Gloria puts Boracay under PTA

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO has placed the island-resort of Boracay under the administrative control of the Philippine Tourism Authority (PTA).

The President signed Memorandum Order No. 214 in April and which was released last week, placing the world renowned island resort under PTA control to ensure the sustainable development of the country's prime tourist destination, said Edwin Trompeta, tourism regional director in Western Visayas.

Under the order, the PTA control would be exercised through the Eminent Person' Group (EPG) in coordination with the Aklan provincial government and the municipality of Malay where Boracay is located.

Capacity

Ms Arroyo last year created the EPG to oversee the development of the island amid growing concerns over unplanned and uncontrolled development of the island that could go beyond its carrying capacity.

Headed by businessman Iñigo Zobel, the EPG is mandated to map out policies for the sustainable development of the island's tourism industry.

Trompeta said the order was in line with the PTA's mandate to control and manage tourism zones and areas in Boracay.

The order was also based on Presidential Proclamation 1801 issued by the late President Ferdinand Marcos on Nov. 10, 1978.

The proclamation placed several islands and coves, including Boracay, as tourist zones and marine reserves under the administration and control of the PTA.

The lands were categorized as public-owned and the government has the prerogative on the management and utilization of its resources.

Building supervision

Trompeta said that under the memorandum, the construction of buildings and structures in Boracay would be subject to PTA approval.

Operations of support services and infrastructures, like ports, would also be under the supervision of the PTA.

Currently, the construction of structures and operations of support infrastructures are being supervised by the municipal and provincial governments.

Trompeta said they are still waiting for the implementing rules that would define the scope of the PTA's authority and the administrative body that would be created.

He welcomed the order as an initial step in the creation of a regular management authority that would govern the development of the island.

Tourism haven

Tourist arrivals in the island-resort of Boracay enjoy a continued upswing, records from the tourism department showed.

The number of visitors last year reached 499,457, 16.48 percent higher than the 428,755 recorded in 2004.

The tourists poured in P8.18 billion which is 38 percent higher than the P7.88 billion that the island earned in 2004.

INSIDE

Punish irresponsible parents, solons told /A14

ARMM teachers' salaries delayed /A14

Church, LGU execs tell voters: Get info on Cha-cha /A14

DENR gives illegal fish pens 3 mos /A14

BLOWING BUBBLES
In this handout photo provided by the US Navy, Navy Lt. Stella Annunziato, a nurse from New Jersey, entertains a patient aboard the hospital ship USNS Mercy, May 27, 2006 in Zamboanga City.
AP

6 mayors in Isabela brace for court war with gov over taxes

ILAGAN, ISABELA—"WE WILL see her in court."

This was the reply of two of the six Isabela mayors who Gov. Maria Gracia Cielo Padaca threatened to sue for nonremittance of the P11.9-million share of the provincial government from real property taxes for the past two years.

Padaca did not identify the six mayors but she was referring to Napoleon Dy (Alicia), Jose Panganiban Jr. (Angadanan), Delfinito Albano (Ilagan), Amado Vallejo Jr. (Cordon), Abraham Lim (San Isidro), and Francisco Ignacio Ramirez III (Naguilian).

"I am ready to see them in court," Padaca told the INQUIRER from the United States where she is on a three-week study tour. "When I say something, I mean it."

Dy, president of the Isabela Mayors' League, said he saw no problem in a possible legal battle with Padaca.

"There is no problem about that. We will answer her charges before the court. We are in good faith. For us in Alicia, the money is deposited in a trust fund," he said.

But Padaca said that as a collecting agent of the provincial government, a town "has no right to impose conditions where the money should go."

"Nowhere in the law does it say that they can put the money first in a trust fund," she said.

Dy said the predicament of the affected mayors was that the real property tax remittances were supposedly to be brought back to them in the form of infrastructure projects and social programs.

"But we see nothing of her projects in my town," he said. This was denied by Padaca. "You can ask the barangay captains," she said. "I have given a lot of projects, especially farm-to-market roads and multipurpose pavements. The projects I have given to barangays, including those in the six towns, have amounted to P65 million."

Dy said mayors who used the unremitted taxes for other programs are liable. But he said he believed the mayors did not use the money for other purposes.

PADACA

"Padaca should have not waited for almost two years to file charges against us. She should have done it immediately. We are ready," he said.

But Padaca said she "gave (the mayors) enough time to respond to all the efforts that my office was making."

"The provincial treasurer has repeatedly gone to see (them) personally to remind them of their obligation to remit the provincial share of the (real property taxes) but to no avail."

Dy assailed Padaca for not alloting money from the tax remittances for payment of teachers hired by the provincial government, and the non-activation of the local education board.

Padaca blamed the mayors for the delayed payment of salaries of teachers.

"(The teachers) had repeatedly gone to the mayors to appeal but all their pleas fell on deaf ears. Since I understand the plight of these poor teachers, I caused the payment of their salaries even though I was not receiving the provincial share of the taxes," she said.

As to the planned reelection bid of Padaca, Dy said: "There is nothing wrong in her plan to be reelected. *Melvin Gascon and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Foreign funds overshadow Marcos money in land reform

By Cristina Arzadon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

LAOAG CITY—THE MARCOS money intended for agrarian reform projects in this so-called Marcos Country has been overshadowed by foreign funds that the Department of Agrarian Reform has secured to support land reform beneficiaries.

Milton Pascua, DAR provincial chief, said the biggest slice of fund sources for the land reform program came from the World Bank's financing package that has been extended to Ilocos Norte's agrarian reform communities (ARCs) since 1998.

"The irony of it is that Marcos money comes in trickles while we get the bulk of funds from foreign sources," said Pascua, who is also provincial project director of the WB's agrarian reform community development project (ARCDP).

Ilocos Norte is one of 10 provinces in the country whose ARCs benefit from the $60-million WB development financing program.

The six-year program is part of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization's commitment to make agriculture-based economies in Third World countries equally stable as their industrial-based counterparts.

Pascua said more than P300 million in WB-assisted projects had been completed in 12 towns—Solsona, Marcos, Bacarra, Pasuquin, Pagudpud, Banna, Dumalneg, Pinili, Dingras, Carasi, Bangui and Paoay. The beneficiaries are classified from fourth-class to sixth-class municipalities.

In January, the WB started implementing the second phase of its assistance program.

Pascua said the Japan Bank for International Cooperation has pumped in some P76 million to complement the DAR's development assistance program. Projects funded by JBIC were completed separately from 1999 to 2004.

In contrast, projects funded by the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program from 1997 to 2005 only reached P15 million, Pascua said.

The money recovered from Marcos' alleged ill-gotten wealth is principally funding the CARP.

"We could not keep track of how much Marcos money is really used for the CARP because DAR is only one of the CARP-implementing agencies," Pascua said, adding that the amount he cited was only for the DAR.

Other government agencies like the Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Agriculture, Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Labor and Employment, which are part of the CARP implementing team, also receive funds from the Marcos wealth.

Pascua said the agrarian reform program was in danger of being closed down because the law implementing the program mandated its end in 2008.

Int'l experts say RP becoming complacent about AIDS, HIV

BAGUIO CITY—BIRD FLU HAS been hogging the headlines for years now that people forget about a pandemic creeping in their midst.

Wing-Sie Cheng, United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef) East Asia and Pacific regional adviser for HIV/AIDS, said both bird flu and HIV were threats but HIV had a more enduring effect on people.

"Bird flu is traumatic but the rise in death is short-term. HIV, because of its nature, is more enduring. It has an asymptomatic period from seven to eight years," she said.

Unicef just concluded a regional conference on renewed HIV/AIDS response in the region.

Complacency about AIDS caused the Philippines to deny a budget for the national AIDS program, the UN program on HIV/AIDS said.

The Department of Health's annual budget for AIDS since 2003 has been almost P10 million, the same money infused in 1993 when the country began its AIDS program.

Its budget in the mid-1990s rose to P45 million and has gone down since.

On the other hand, the DOH budget for its bird flu program amounted to P300 million.

"HIV prevention requires ongoing reinforcement and adaptation to changing needs and risk behaviors. Unfortunately, there are signs that some countries that have avoided major epidemics are reducing official support for their national AIDS response, particularly prevention programming," the UN AIDS report said.

Cheng said the Philippines would have to step up surveillance and testing program for AIDS. "Ninety percent of those tested positive for HIV did not know that they have it until they were tested," she said.

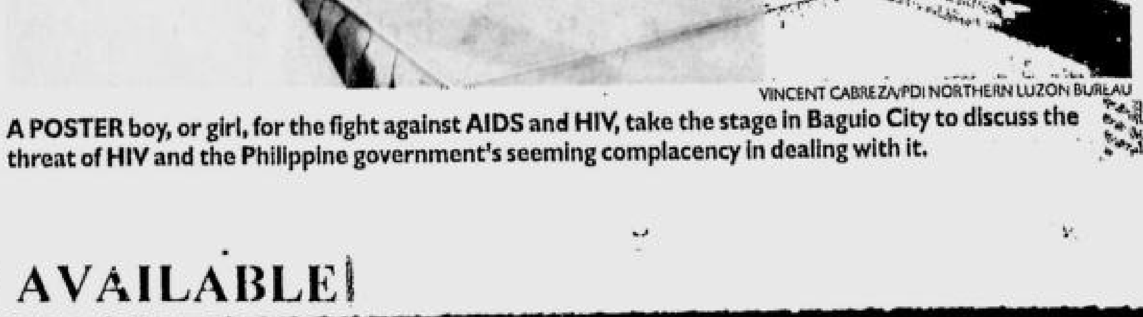
The rate of infection in the Philippines is still low and slow, which, Cheng said, is "interesting."

"There are sex workers but not as many as in the other countries in the region. There is also the issue of geography because the islands are far apart, and maybe religion (is a factor, too)," she said.

The DOH said 11,168 HIV-positive people, aged 15 to 49, were living in the country. About 86 percent of HIV-positive people contracted the virus through sex.

Cheng said the AIDS surveillance in the Philippines is "quite accurate" so the low figure is not anomalous.

But there is one vulnerable part of the population which could be a spark plug of the HIV explosion in the country, she warned. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*



VINCENT CABREZA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

A POSTER boy, or girl, for the fight against AIDS and HIV, take the stage in Baguio City to discuss the threat of HIV and the Philippine government's seeming complacency in dealing with it.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Congress urged to pass new law penalizing irresponsible parents

VILLAMOR VISAYA JR./PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

TWO GIRLS enjoy their stay under the Malalam Bridge in Ilagan, Isabela, during a break from household chores.

"IF THEY CANNOT RAISE THEIR children well, put them behind bars!"

This was the appeal made by a professor of the University of the Philippines' Population Institute (UPPI) to legislators to pass House Bill No. 4110 providing penalties for irresponsible parents who could not provide the basic needs and rights of their children.

"Basically, children's rights are to have a good life and a better future. If their parents could not give that to them and (they) end up as the country's problem when they grow up, then let's impose sanctions," Dr. Zelda Zablan, chair of the Reproductive Health Advocacy Network of the UPPI, told the INQUIRER.

Zablan reiterated that the country's population growth rate had remained "on the uptrend" and had not even come close to the administration's target.

Zablan's group is calling for increased use of contraceptives, such as condoms, pills and intrauterine devices, for women to have tubal ligation, and for men to have vasectomy.

The Catholic Church is against the bill, saying it suggests access to artificial methods of population management.

"What is controversial with the bill? If they don't like to prevent pregnancy, it will only lead to abortion. It is the right of every child to be born and given a responsible life. Unwanted pregnancy will only lead to abortion," Zablan said.

Denia Diezon, a community development specialist of a World Bank-funded project in Central Mindanao, supported Zablan's appeal. "It's better to prevent pregnancy rather (than) abortion," Diezon said.

House Majority Leader Prospero Nograles told Zablan's group that congressmen would fast-track deliberations on HB 4110.

"It's controversial. We will see to it that it will be balanced. We want to discuss it publicly so that the people can vote diligently," Nograles said. *Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

RAIN GEAR

FV ESPIRITU/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

Davao's traditional costumes are suited for the changing weather. These women carry umbrellas just in time to bid farewell to the brief summer.

ARMM teachers complain of delayed salaries

COTABATO CITY—DESPITE GOV. Zaldy Puti Uy Ampatuan's order for the Department of Education to pay salaries on time, public school teachers continue to complain of delayed wage releases.

An elementary teacher in Sultan Kudarat, who asked not to be identified, said she and hundreds of other teachers had yet to receive their pay for April.

She also complained of the tedious process of collecting their salaries. "I can't understand why, with the advent of technology in giving out salaries, we are asked to personally claim our meager and hard-earned money from DepEd regional office," she said.

Samson Gogo, ARMM spokesperson, clarified that the "personal withdrawal" of salaries was temporary. "Once they claim their pay and the DepEd knows they were the ones receiving their pay in the past, the process will be changed." Gogo said.

"Unlike before, school principals and budget officers could claim the salaries of their teachers but the money ended up in the wrong persons or nonexisting teachers and employees," he said.

Speaking to DepEd officials on Monday, Ampatuan reiterated an earlier directive to ensure that salaries and benefits of ARMM teachers were paid on time and their premiums to the Government Service Insurance System and contributions to other insurance companies were properly remitted.

He warned education officials defying his order of disciplinary and administrative sanctions.

High school teachers, according to the complaining elementary teacher from Sultan Kudarat, have no problem getting their pay.

"I don't know why for us elementary teachers, it is different," she said, adding that a lot of teachers preferred to wait in silence for fear of repercussions if they go public.

Gogo said the complaint was being looked into. He urged the teachers to go direct to the DepEd office to air their grievances.

Upon assuming office in October last year, Ampatuan created a special task force that conducted an inventory of all its teaching and nonteaching personnel, including all assets and pieces of property that included school buildings, furniture and other fixtures of the department.

The task force found that a huge amount of teachers' salaries actually went to "ghost" teachers or employees of the department.

Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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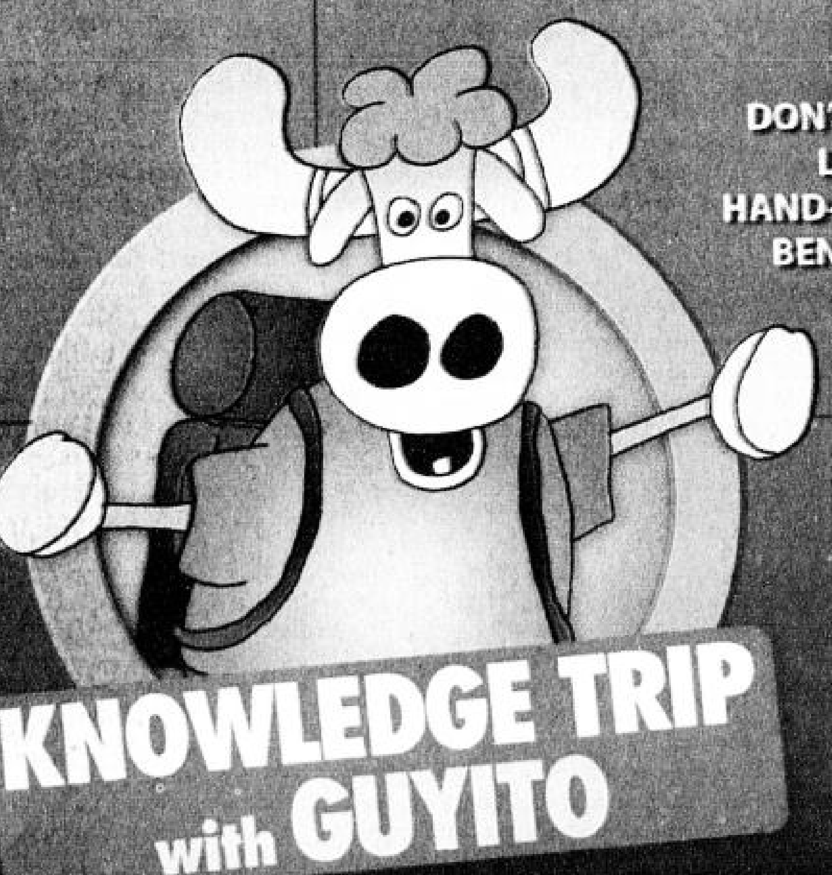

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Get all Cha-cha info, Church tells voters

DAGUPAN CITY—ATTEND FORUMS, LISTEN, read and get as much information as you can.

This was the advice of church and local government leaders to residents here on the proposed Constitutional changes which they claimed would inevitably come, "whether we like it or not."

"I believe the Charter change is our destination, but there is no express train towards it. It cannot be rushed nor manipulated. We must do it slowly, surely, and with total disregard to the political agenda of those who are in power," Mayor Benjamin Lim said during a forum on Charter change on Thursday.

The forum was sponsored by the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting (PPCRV), the Lingayen-Dagupan Archdiocese and the city government.

Ambassador to the Holy See Henrietta de Villa, PPCRV chair, said the forum was conducted to find out the extent of knowledge of the people on the proposed changes to the 1987 Constitution and to clear issues surrounding the proposals.

Cavite Rep. Jesus Crispin Remulla, who discussed the advantages and disadvantages of the proposed changes, said that "when the time comes to vote [on the proposals], everybody should be prepared to make a stand."

Lim said: "I am not a lawyer, nor am I well-versed in the intricacies of the law. But I am knowledgeable enough to know that the Constitution is the most fundamental law of the land. It is the manifestation of nothing less than the collective will of the Filipino people [and], therefore, it is only the Filipino people who are empowered to create the changes they want to see in our Constitution." *Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mining firm says probe body erred in tax rates

THE COMMISSION THAT INVESTIGATED TWO mine spills in Rapu-Rapu, Albay erred in the way it computed Lafayette Philippines Inc.'s (LPI) production figures to arrive at a conclusion that the firm did not pay proper taxes.

In a statement answering the charges made by the Bastes Commission, LPI said the error emanated from the commission's failure to understand the mining and milling process.

"If only the commission had asked us to explain, they could have spared us the temporary suspicion of fiscal irresponsibility, and themselves the embarrassment of being unmasked for a report that is biased, flawed, unscientific, and, irresponsible," LPI said in a statement.

"The simplest way to explain this," it said, "is that bottom line, we paid the taxes based on production figures the commission said it should be based on. Put another way, we did not evade tax payments because we paid the amount the commission said we should pay."

The company said ore production was 70,000 metric tons in April-June 2005 to build up inventory for a July milling operation. Production from July to October reached 67,000 MT.

Days of illegal fish pens in Laguna Lake numbered

ENVIRONMENT SECretary Angelo Reyes gave illegal fish pen operators in the Laguna Lake and seven other lakes in the province three months to demolish their structures or face penalties.

Reyes, in a statement, said he and Casimiro Ynares, general manager of the Laguna Lake Development Authority, agreed to remove all illegal fish pens in the lake to save it from further destruction.

The LLDA board of directors has approved the proposal.

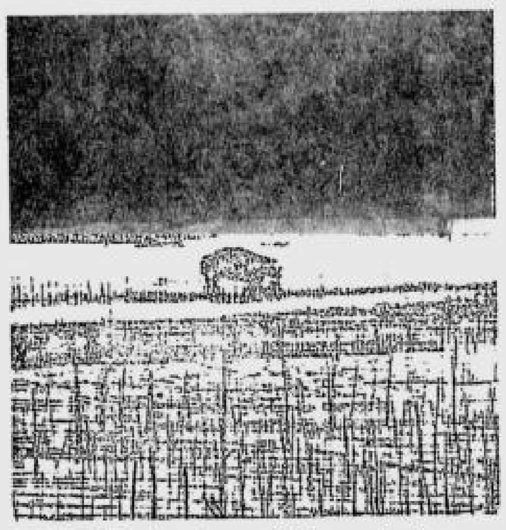
Reyes said the government would allow the owners of the illegal fish pens, who include individuals, cooperatives, associations and corporations, to harvest their produce in three months, after which they would be compelled to demolish their cages.

If they fail to do so, the DENR would cause the demolition of the structures and confiscate the materials, aside from imposing administrative and criminal sanctions against the fish cage operators.

Illegal fish cage structures are those constructed outside the designated fish cage or fish pen belts, or were built without an operation permit from the LLDA, Reyes said.

In a dialogue with the fish pen operators recently, Reyes announced that the department would eradicate the illegal fish cage structures to preserve the required carrying capacity of the lakes.

In a later meeting, the LLDA board approved a plan for the revival of the lakes submitted by the DENR.


BAMBOO poles fence off fish pens in the Laguna Lake in Cardona, Rizal. The lake was declared polluted recently, serving as Metro Manila's septic tank. ERNIE SARMIENTO

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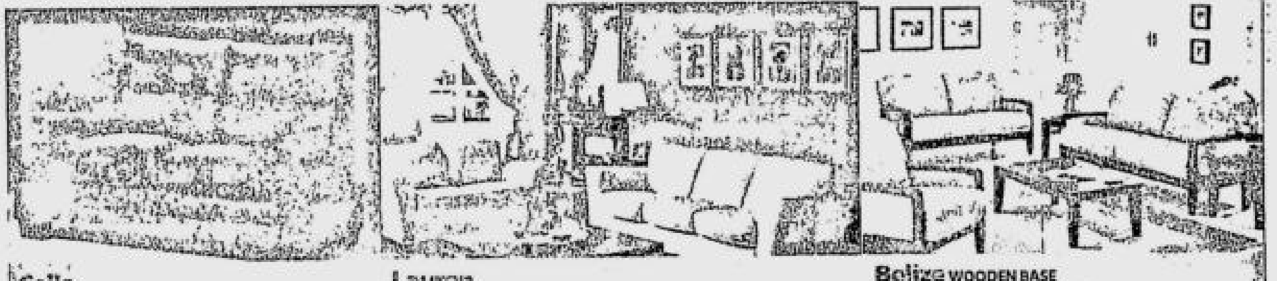

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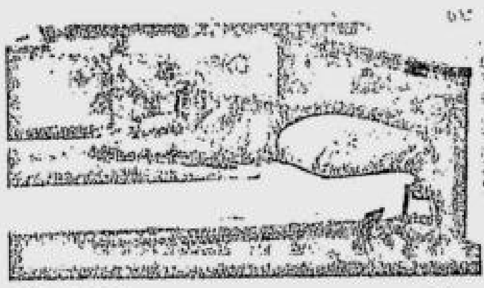

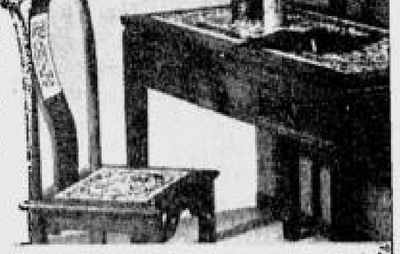

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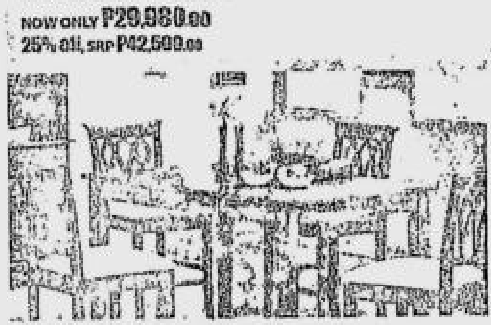

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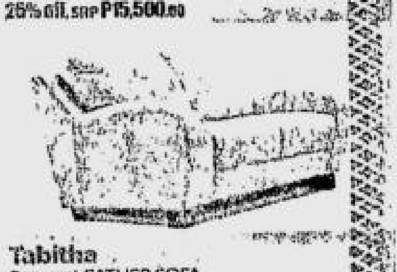

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CAYABYAB

CORRALES

MAGALONA

Pilita, Francis M complete trio of RP 'Idol' judges

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHEN IT COMES TO "Philippine Idol," three is definitely not a crowd.

Asia's Queen of Song Pilita Corrales and rapper-TV host Francis Magalona join award-winning composer Ryan Cayabyab as the judges of "Philippine Idol."

The final lineup of judges was confirmed by Perci Intalan, ABC 5's head of Creative and Entertainment Production. The local version of the world-famous "American Idol" reality-talent search begins airing on ABC 5 in July.

"It was only recently that we got to finalize the participation of all three judges," Intalan said. "They've met and they hit it off instantly."

Intalan said that the network put the three together in workshops that allowed them to interact with each other and "trial" contestants.

"All three came up with witty statements," Intalan described the workshops. "Ms Corrales was mouthing off one punchline after another. Sometimes she didn't have to say anything; her facial expression more than sufficed. Mr. Magalona's background as a rapper and record producer also proved crucial. Lastly, Mr. Cayabyab could be the wild card among the three. He could surprise the viewers with his quick quips."

While Cayabyab was handpicked for the part, Corrales and Magalona gamely auditioned and their screen tests were sent to "Idol" producer, FremantleMedia, based in the United Kingdom.

British TV executive Sheldon Bailey, a FremantleMedia supervising producer who is consultant to "Philippine Idol," told INQUIRER in an interview last April: "We give specific instructions to our franchisees not to look for a Simon Cowell."

Cowell is the notoriously nasty judge on the original UK show "Pop Idol" and its United States version, "American Idol."

This was confirmed by Cayabyab in an interview conducted in March: "The producers encourage us to be ourselves. To be as Filipino as we are."

Intalan concurred: "From our choices it is evident that we didn't follow the 'AI' template. We didn't look for a Cowell, a Paula Abdul or a Randy Jackson. We chose the three Filipino judges for who they are. We are very confident in our choices because we are certain that they'll pick contestants that deserve to go through."

Bailey pointed out: "More than anything else, we want judges who are passionate about music and who show genuine concern for the contestants."

Corrales, in an earlier interview, commented that she was raring to play an active part in discovering new talents.

"To succeed, young artists should love what they are doing," she said. "They should be professional."

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WHAT'S INSIDE

Mandaluyong traffic rerouting reset to June 15 /A18

Arts and culture fest for kids opens in Manila today /A18

'Criminal intent' seen

Filing of murder charges vs 10 cops in Ortigas shoot-out recommended

By Norman Bordadora

FAMILIES of the slain suspects listen to 36-page resolution of the Commission on Human Rights that carried its recommendation. RAFFY LERMA

THE COMMISSION ON Human Rights yesterday recommended the filing of multiple murder charges against the 10 policemen involved in the Ortigas shoot-out which left three alleged car thieves dead last November.

In a 36-page resolution, the CHR en banc said it found probable cause that there was "arbitrary deprivation of life" when the suspects—Anton Cu-Unjieng, Francis Xavier Manzano, and Bryan Anthony Dulay—were shot by operatives of the Traffic Management Group.

"(The) anti-carnapping operations implemented by the police operatives on that evening of Nov. 7, 2005 was feigned, premeditated, and treacherous, thus, the killing of the victims by the said state agents qualifies the latter's criminal act as a case of multiple murder," the CHR said.

Found liable for violation for human rights were Senior Inspectors Hansel Marantan, Henry Cerdon, Samson Belmonte, Police Officers 3 Lloyd Soria, Rizalito Ramos Jr., Police Officers 2 Dexter Pascua, Jesus Fermin, Sonny Robrigado, and Police Officers 1 Fernando Rey Gapuz and Josil Rey Lucena.

The CHR said the gunshot suffered by Belmonte, who was wounded in the alleged shoot-out with the three suspects, may have been "self-inflicted and probably accidental."

Belmonte's wound was part of the evidence presented by the police that the Nov. 7 incident was a shoot-out and not a rub-out as alleged by the suspects' relatives.

Supt. Errol Pan, TMG chief, meanwhile, maintained that the operation was legitimate and that the suspects were car thieves.

"If the CHR found probable cause, then it means a case will still have to be filed in court. Our men would still have time to defend themselves. But we maintain that the operation was legitimate, and those killed were carjackers," he said.

The CHR en banc said forensic analysis showed that when the suspects were flagged down by the Task Force Limbas operatives, they stopped their car immediately but were met with gunfire.

The police, added the commission, had "criminal intent".

It noted that the actions of the police were not in accord with the Philippine National Police's rules of engagement as the agents did not make any attempt to bring the mortally wounded victims to the nearest hospital.

"Instead, they willfully and feloniously ensured the death of the victims with the use of excessive and/or lethal force as borne by the second round of gun fires even when the victims were already at the point of death," the CHR said.

A video footage taken by a TV network showed some of the agents approaching the suspects' car and then firing on them as they were laying motionless inside the vehicle.

The CHR will submit its resolution and other documentary evidence to the Office of the Ombudsman for the filing of criminal and administrative cases.

AFP consultant arrested for estafa

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A SECURITY AND INTELLIGENCE CONSULtant of the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) was arrested last week by agents of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) in connection with a string of estafa cases filed against him since 1985.

Conrado Nave, 50, was nabbed in his house at the Buenaventura Compound in Imus, Cavite, last Friday after 20 warrants of arrests the Manila Regional Trial Court had been issued against him, according to Special Investigator Isaac Carpeso Jr. of the NBI Special Action Unit.

During his arrest, NBI agents recovered an identification card showing that the suspect was employed as a security and intelligence consultant at the AFP Office of the Provost Marshal General.

Carpeso said this was confirmed by the 300th Air Intelligence and Security Group of the Philippine Air Force.

The NBI official identified some of the complainants against Nave as retired Lt. Col. Valentin Dionela, an employee of the Aviation Safety Division of the Air Transportation Office, and his officemates Hector Catan and John Rey.

The three had sought the NBI's assistance after the suspect allegedly duped them of more than P100,000 in November 2005.

Investigation showed that Nave, who claimed he had connections at the Land Transportation Office and Bureau of Customs, convinced the victims to buy Mitsubishi Pajeros, allegedly from the Subic Export Processing Zone, for P100,000 each.

After receiving from the three men a down payment totaling P142,500, the suspect promised to deliver the vehicles last January.

However, when the suspect failed to keep his end of the bargain, the victims decided to get their money back.

Questionable record

Of the P142,500, Nave only returned P30,000 to the victims, in addition to US$100 which were later found to be fake, Carpeso said.

Following his arrest, Nave, who is now detained at the NBI jail, returned the P120,000 to the victims.

The three, however, said they would not drop the charges they had filed against Nave.

A background check showed that the suspect has a string of estafa and illegal recruitment cases pending in Cavite and Manila.

Carpeso said they would conduct a follow-up investigation to determine how Nave was hired as an AFP consultant despite his questionable record.

LEO Oracion (left) and Erwin Emata: "World-class welcome for world-class Filipinos." AFP PHOTO

Makati welcomes Everest climbers with parade

By Nikko Dizon and Jocelyn R. Uy

EXPECT CONFETTI TO RAIN DOWN ON AYala Avenue on Wednesday as Makati hosts a victory parade for mountaineers Leo Oracion and Erwin "Pastor" Emata, the first and second Filipinos to conquer Mt. Everest, the world's highest mountain.

The two are expected to return to the country at 6 p.m. today via Philippine Air Lines.

"As in the past, Makati will provide a world-class welcome for a group of world-class Filipinos," Mayor Jejomar Binay said in a statement. The parade will coincide with the culmination of the month-long celebration of Makati's 336th Foundation Day.

"Makati is a city which celebrates determination, passion and teamwork, which are the hallmarks of the Philippine Everest Team. We are proud to host them on their arrival and to give them a welcome that is uniquely Makati," Binay added.

Oracion, Emata, and other members of the First Philippine Mt. Everest Expedition (FPMEE) team will hold a press conference at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport (Naia) upon their arrival today.

From there, the group will proceed to ABS-CBN, the team's broadcast partner, for more activities.

At 2:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oracion, Emata and other members of the team, including former Transportation Undersecretary Arturo Valdez, will march on Ayala Avenue—from Gil Puyat Avenue to Edsa—at 2:30 p.m.

Binay encouraged Makati residents, office workers and executives to throw confetti from buildings during the parade.

Asked why Romi Garduce, the third Filipino to reach the mountain's summit, was not included in the parade, Joey Salgado, head of the Makati public information office, said it was the FPMEE that requested for a parade. Emata and Oracion are members of the FPMEE, while Garduce's Everest expedition was backed by television network giant GMA7.

"They called us up and said they wanted to have a confetti parade in the city," Salgado said.

Makati has played host to several victory parades for Filipinos who had brought honor to the country, including boxing champ Manny Pacquiao, Miss International titleholder Precious Lara Quigaman and the Filipino delegation to last year's Southeast Asian Games.

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Amount of Principal	Nominal Interest Rate (per annum)	Average Interest Rate After 5 Years* (per annum)
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₱300,000 and above	7.500%	8.712%

Sample Computations:

Amount of Principal	Earnings (after 5 years)	Maturity Amount (after 5 years)
₱200,000	₱ 82,152.67	₱282,152.67
₱500,000	₱217,814.66	₱717,814.66

*Formula: Average Interest Rate After 5 Years = Earnings After 5 Years/ Principal/ 5 Years
Provided deposit is maintained with the bank until maturity.*

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Shaw traffic rerouting reset

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

PASSING THROUGH SHAW Boulevard? You have more than two weeks to drive through your usual route.

The Mandaluyong City government announced yesterday that it has decided to postpone the implementation of its experimental traffic rerouting scheme on Shaw Boulevard to June 15 instead of June 1.

Traffic enforcers in the area, however, will be holding a "dry run" to familiarize motorists with the new routes, Mandaluyong City Mayor Neptali Gonzales II told the INQUIRER yesterday. Gonzales announced last week that the new traffic scheme, aimed at decongesting Shaw Boulevard in time for the school opening, would take effect on Monday.

"We want more time for information dissemination. I also want signboards not only announcing the closure of the streets, but also instructing motorists about what alternate route to take," Gonzales said.

"If we see improvements, we will make the new routes permanent," he added.

From being two-way side streets, the following routes will soon be one way: Bernardo Street from Haig Street to Shaw Boulevard; Magalona Street from Shaw to Haig; Gomezville from Shaw to Guerrero Street; Luna Mencias going out to Shaw; Pilar Street from Shaw to Calderon Street; Mabini Street from Shaw to San Juan; Ideal Street from Shaw to Lee Street; Laurel Street from Shaw to Lee; Lee Street from Laurel Sr. to Shaw; Old Wack Wack Road from Shaw and Sto. Cristo Street going to Shaw. From Shaw (Pasig-bound), no left turn on Bernardo, Luna Mencias, Lee, L. Cruz, Araullo, Gomezville, Torres, Calderon, Pilar Mabini, Ideal and S. Laurel Streets.

No U-turns are allowed at Samat St., and flyover to Sherican/San Miguel Sts., while there will be no crossing at Vicencio, Guerrero, Torres, Calderon and E. Rodriguez Sts.

Female prosecutor a Jekyll and Hyde type

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THERE MUST BE SOMETHING wrong with this woman.

I'm referring to Prosecutor Olivia Non who held a press conference and recanted all the things she had said in a signed and sworn affidavit detailing supposed sexual exploits she had with some Department of Justice officials.

Non first sought the help of a friend and colleague, Tony Calvento, in accusing Prosecuting Attorney Alexander Suarez of sexually harassing her. Calvento and Non were allegedly having an affair at the time.

I saw Non at the office of the radio program, "Hustisya Para sa Lahat" hosted by Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez. Gonzalez and I have programs at dwIZ.

Non was special assistant to Gonzalez in his radio program. which he hosts with Calvento.

Non showed me a copy of her affidavit linking top DOJ officials and alleged sexual activities happening inside their offices.

I had no second thoughts about believing Non since she's a government prosecutor. She even said that after a senior prosecutor had sex with her, he passed her on to other prosecutors. She said she agreed to have sex with them so she would get promoted.

I wrote about her complaint and that of another female prosecutor that she said was also a victim of "sex for promotion" scheme in this column (*see April 11 column*). I didn't mention the names of the male prosecutors, only their jumbled initials, as I wanted to play safe. It now turns out I was right about playing safe. Non has made a 180 degree turn. She accused Calvento, her erstwhile boyfriend, of having forced her to make those confessions damaging to her as well as to her DOJ superiors. I'm now sure she has a split personality, a Dr Jekyll and Hyde type. I suspected something was wrong with Non after she accused a former justice secretary and solicitor general of mashing her and kissing her on the lips inside his office recently.

This man, a friend of mine and Calvento's, was supposed to give her legal support in her battle with a subordinate prosecutor she accused of sexually harassing her.

She had complained to Calvento about the supposed mashing and kissing. Calvento had taken her to this man's office. I know the man: he would never do that to a prospective client, much more to a woman who was his friend's girlfriend.

Calvento apparently realized he was having an affair with a liar and drove her out of his house. I know because Calvento told me about it days before Non's press conference. I talked to Calvento after he broke up with Non. He told me about the lurid details of sex that Non supposedly told him she had with still another prosecutor. According to Calvento, she told him that after she supposedly had sex with the prosecutor, she was also "given" to his bodyguards.

The sex act was supposed to have taken place inside a motel with a "love seat." She was supposed to have been tied to the love seat while the guards took turns molesting her. Was she telling another fictitious story?

* * *

If Non's confession, which she recanted later, comes out in the newspapers, the story would be X-rated.

And it would bring shame and scandal to the Department of Justice, even if the story were fiction.

METROBRIEFS

Children's festival

SOME 300 children from all over the country will gather in Manila to attend a three-day arts and cultural festival which will highlight their rights and responsibilities. The festival, with the theme: "Wow Bata 2: Bata, Karapata'y Ihayag sa Sining at Kultura Ilahad," will kick off today with a parade in Intramuros with participants dressed in their native costumes. "This event stresses the importance of performing arts as a powerful tool in educating the public about the pressing issues faced by Filipino children today," said Malou Sevilla of Plan Philippines. The international child-centered organization organized the three-day festival aimed at showcasing children's talents in different art forms such as dance, music and visual arts with themes that revolve around their issues and concerns. The festival will be held until June 1. *Tina G. Santos*

Fire in Las Piñas

FIRE swept through a crowded community in Las Piñas City before dawn yesterday, razing 10 houses and leaving P800,000 worth of damage. Senior Insp. Robert Pacis said the blaze might have been triggered by an unattended candle since the houses on San Jose Street, Ilaya Extension, had been without electricity for several hours before the fire broke out after 1 a.m. yesterday. Responding firemen had trouble putting out the fire, which reached the third alarm, because of the narrow streets leading to the community. "We had to use at least 10 hoses to reach the fire scene," Pacis told the INQUIRER yesterday. Only one was hurt during the incident, but fire officials failed to identify the victim. The victim, Pacis added, suffered minor lacerations. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Ban on short skirts

THE NATIONAL Capital Region Police Office has issued a memorandum reminding policewomen to wear their proper uniform. The reminder came after some officials of the Philippine National Police and the National Police Commission observed that some policewomen in a few stations in different parts of the country were not in proper uniform. The NCRPO observed that some policewomen wore skirts that were three to five inches above the knees. Others were wearing unauthorized shoes while some had long hair which was "not properly arranged." The memorandum reminded policewomen that the length of their skirts should be up to the "mid-kneecap" while their hair should not reach the collar. Those sporting long hair should keep it under a "conservative black hair net" since colorful ribbons are also prohibited. Lastly, policewomen should refrain from wearing dangling earrings. *Edson C. Tandoc Jr.*

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors and other interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project/Brief Description	One (1) lot - One (1) year supply of manpower, equipment, tools and supplies for the servicing and maintenance of landscaped areas, approximately 15,060 sq.m. at the Security Plant Complex (SPC) per BSP scope of work and special terms and conditions.
Approved Budget for the Contract	P2,057,000 00
Duration of Contract	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	29 May 2006 to 15 June 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	16 June 2006 - 4 00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	04 July 2006 - 2.00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount of P1,030.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI - May 30, 2006)

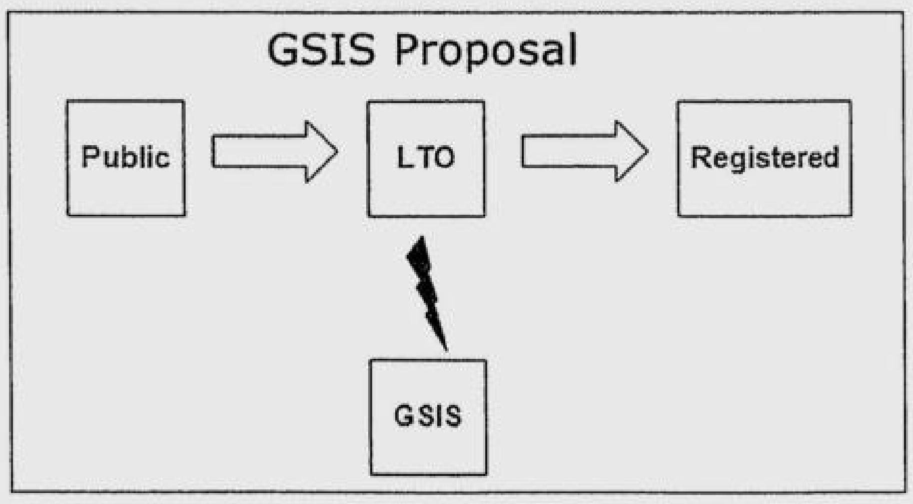
Why wait two days? When you can have your vehicle registered in one hour.

The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) proposes to become the official Compulsory Third Party Liability (CTPL) insurer of ALL motor vehicles in the country.

The benefits of a GSIS Certificate of Cover (COC)

- ✓ Convenience
- ✓ Electronic processing, no manual intervention
- ✓ 100% Accuracy and consistency with LTO requirements
- ✓ 0% Opportunity for Corruption
- ✓ 100% Guaranteed Tax Remittance

GSIS Proposal



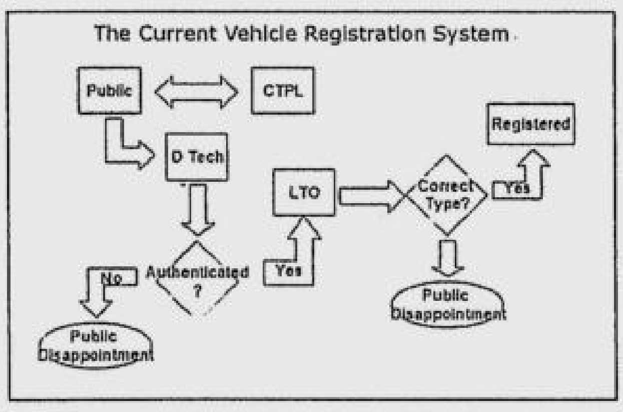
The GSIS proposal is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

One, vehicle owners go to LTO.
Two, LTO includes the COC in the registration fees.
Three, the vehicle is registered.

The GSIS advantage

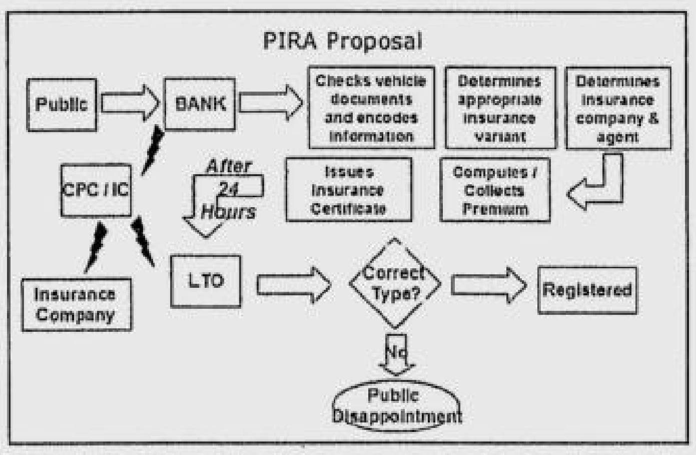
- ✓ Faster registration
- ✓ 24-hour Call Center to handle claim reports and requests for assistance
- ✓ No need to produce registration papers
- ✓ No need to present proof of insurance (because the COC is already in the LTO system)

The Current Vehicle Registration System



- The present registration process does not check whether CTPL is valid. Many fixers take advantage of this by selling fake COCs.
- Due to the proliferation of fake COCs, many motorists are unable to get their P50,000 claim in case of accidents.
- It is estimated that 46.41% of vehicles ply the roads using fake COCs, putting the motoring and commuting public at risk.

PIRA Proposal



Public
BANK
Checks vehicle documents and encodes information
Determines appropriate insurance variant
Determines insurance company & agent
CPC / IC
After 24 Hours
Issues Insurance Certificate
Computes / Collects Premium
Insurance Company
LTO
Correct Type?
Registered
No
Public Disappointment

- Instead of simplifying it, the proposal of private insurers (PIRA), complicates the entire vehicle registration process.
- Vehicle owners must first go to authorized banks to pay for their insurance.
- Registrants agonize for 24 hours before getting their COCs. Only then can they start registering their vehicles.
- The whole PIRA process means you have to wait for two days to register your vehicles, if you're lucky.

Public protection is a government concern.
Support the GSIS CTPL program.

Government Service Insurance System
GSIS - Kahit Saan, Kahit Kailan Maaasahan

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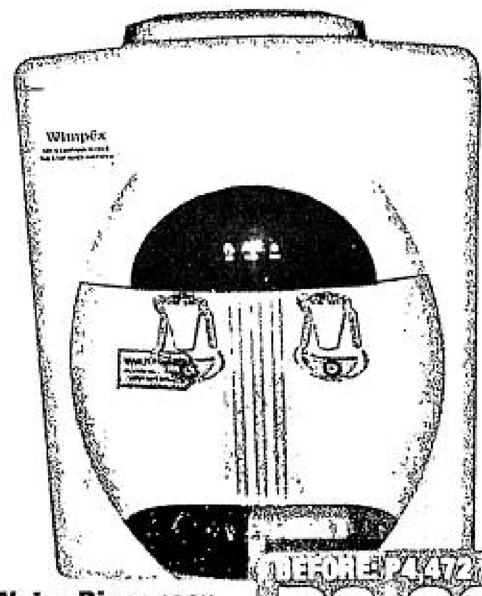
KITCHEN APPLIANCES

Single Electric Stove
ESW-5285
- with Light Indicator
- 6 Setting Temperature
- Easy to Operate & Clean

BEFORE: P769
P699

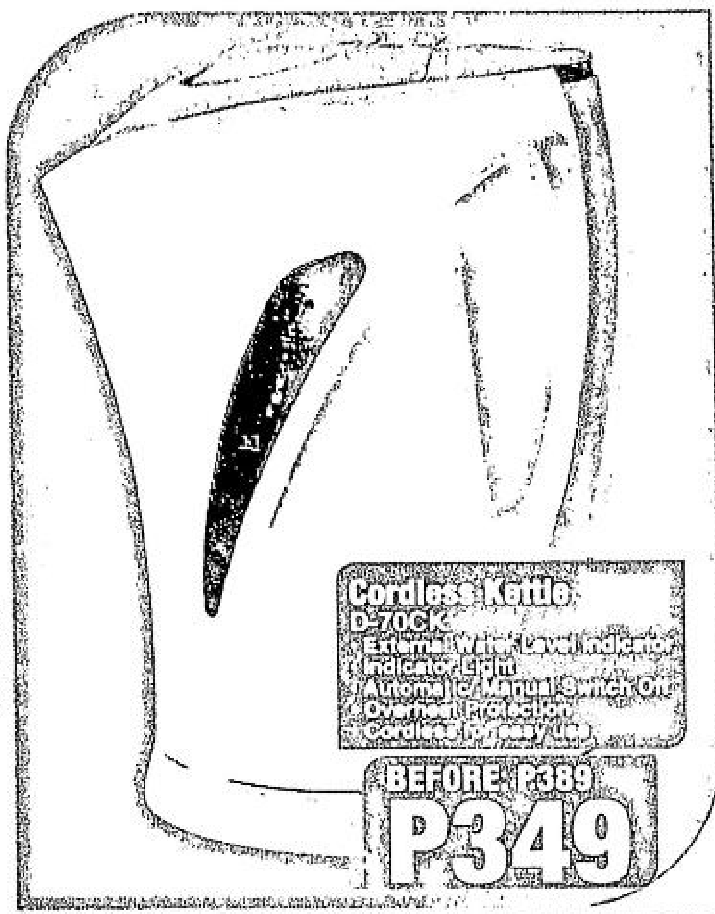
Cordless Kettle
D-71CD
- Indicator Light
- Heat Resistant, Easy Care Housing
- Overheat Protection
- External Water Level Indicator

BEFORE: P599
P539



Water Dispenser
D-30WD
HOT & COLD
- Table Top
- With Compressor
- Stainless Steel Tank & Tube
- Low Noise Design
- Anti-Bacterial Design

BEFORE: P4,472
P3,999



Cordless Kettle
D-70CK
- External Water Level Indicator
- Indicator Light
- Automatic/Manual Switch Off
- Overheat Protection
- Cordless for easy use

BEFORE: P389
P349

Coffee Maker
D-90CM
- 12 Cups Capacity
- Transparent Water Scale
- Non-Drip Valve
- Auto Hot Plate to keep coffee warm

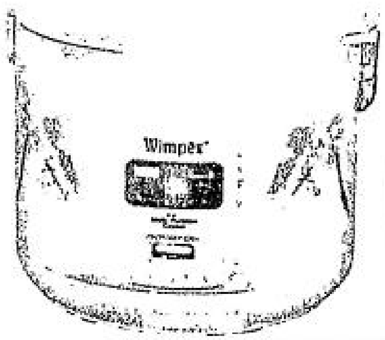
BEFORE: P649
P579

Oven Toaster
OTW-5575
- High Temperature Resistance
- 15 Minute Timer Switch
- Double Plated Grill
- Set in Quart Heater
- Energy Saving Feature

BEFORE: P689
P599

Popcorn Maker
D-100PCM
- Popcorn made by Hot Air Circulation
- Preparation without oil
- With butter melting Container

BEFORE: [illegible]
P759



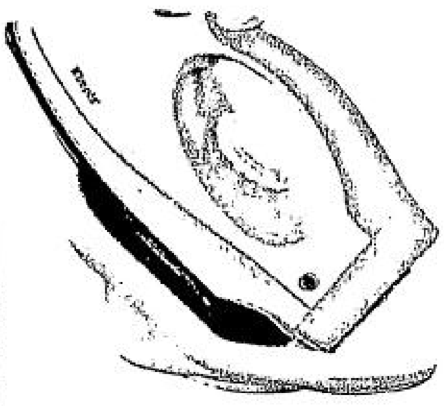
Jar Type Rice Cooker
RCW-4301
- 1.8 Liter Capacity
- with Food Steamer
- Enamel Finished

BEFORE: P769
P679

Commercial Rice Cooker
D-80RC
- 50 Cups Capacity
- Non-Stick Coating
- With Steamer
- With Measuring Cups and Rice Paddle

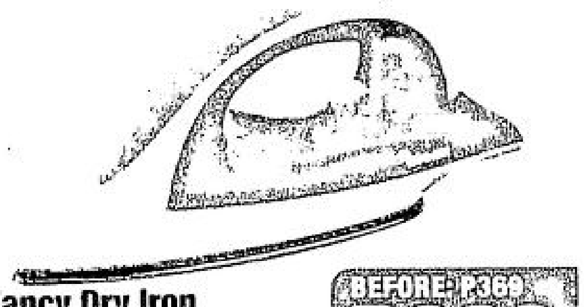
BEFORE: P2,699
P2,399

WHITE LINES/SMALL APPLIANCES



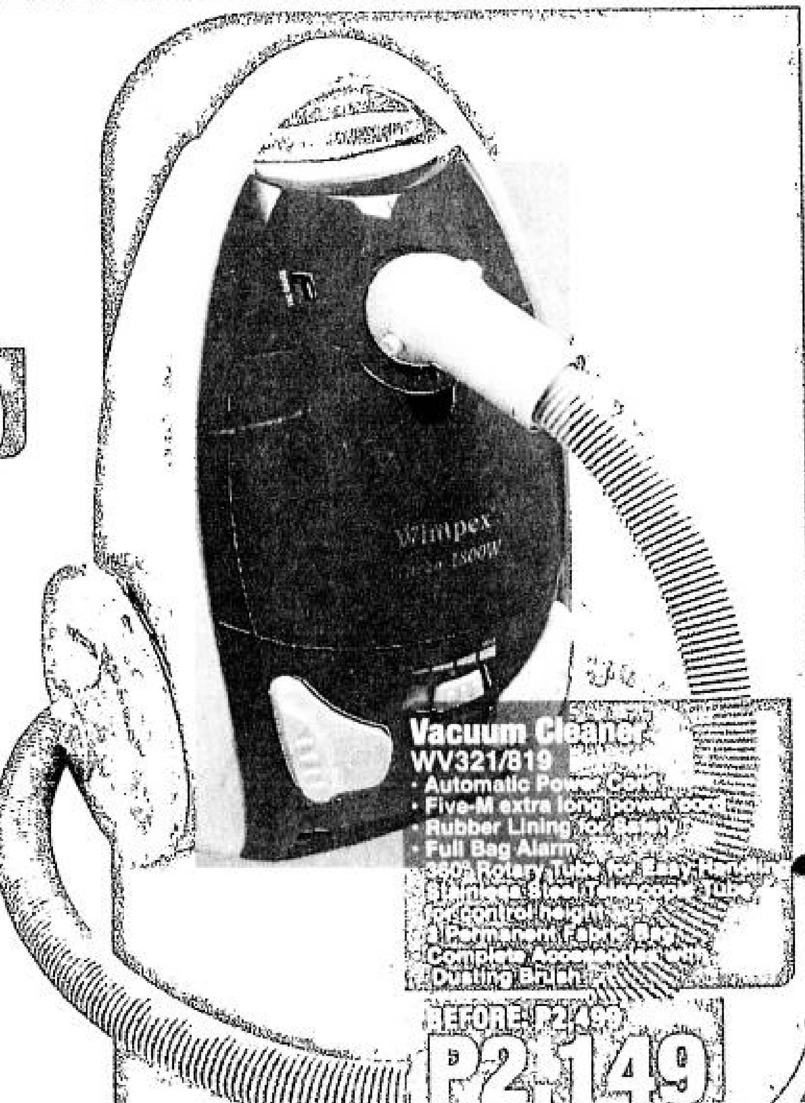
Cordless Steam Iron
SIW-600
- Soleplate
- Transparent Water Tank
- Variable Temperature suitable for all types of material

BEFORE: P669
P579



Fancy Dry Iron
DIW-6237
- Non-Stick Soleplate
- Adjustable Thermostat Control
- Overheat Safety Protection
- Pilot Light

BEFORE: P369
P329



Vacuum Cleaner
WV321/819
- Automatic Power Cord
- Five-M extra long power cord
- Rubber Lining for Safety
- Full Bag Alarm
- 360° Rotary Tube for [illegible]
- Stainless Steel Telescopic Tube for control height
- Permanent Fabric Bag
- Complete Accessories with Dusting Brush

BEFORE: P2,499
P2,149

FREE
Wimpex Desktop 16" worth P599

1-Tub Washing Machine
S-68
- 6.8 Kgs. Capacity
- Full Plastic/Rust Proof Base
- Semi-Automatic

BEFORE: P3,359
P2,999

FREE
Wimpex Industrial Fan 18" worth P909

2-Tub Washing Machine
D14-TWM
- 9.5 Kgs. Capacity
- Full Plastic/Rust Proof Base
- High Efficiency
- Energy Saving

BEFORE: P6,799
P5,999

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

POPE Benedict XVI signs a book after prayers in front of the death wall in the courtyard of block 11 at Nazi camp Auschwitz May 28 in Oswiecim. AFP

German Pope visits Auschwitz

OSWIECIM, POLAND—POPE BENEDICT XVI PRAYED at the Auschwitz concentration camp Sunday and denounced the mass murder of Europe's Jews by his native country's World War II rulers, saying it was hard for "a pope from Germany" even to speak of the Holocaust.

"To speak in this place of horror, in this place where unprecedented mass crimes were committed against God and man, is almost impossible—and it is particularly difficult and troubling for a Christian, for a pope from Germany," he said.

"In a place like this, words fail; in the end, there can be only a dread silence," Benedict said in Italian, "a silence which itself is a heartfelt cry to God: Why, Lord, did you remain silent?"

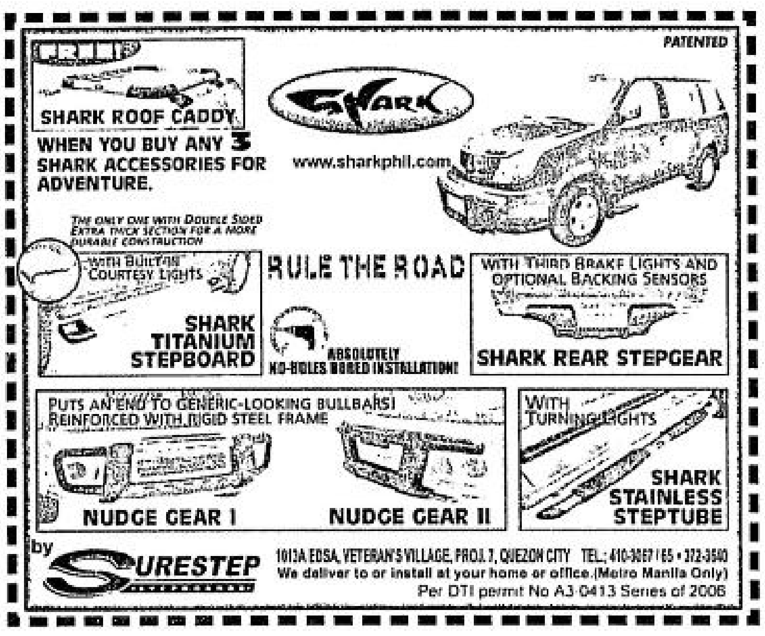
Benedict said that just as his predecessor, John Paul II, had visited "this dreadful place" as a Pole in 1979, he came as "a son of the German people." He mostly avoided his native language, however, speaking in Italian and using German for just one short prayer.

"The rulers of the Third Reich wanted to crush the entire Jewish people, to cancel it from the register of the peoples of the earth," he said, standing near the demolished crematoriums where the Nazis burned the bodies of their victims.

"By destroying Israel with the Shoah, they ultimately wanted to tear up the taproot of the Christian faith and to replace it with a faith of their own invention."

Shoah is the Hebrew term for the killing of six million Jews by the Nazis during World War II.

As many as 1.5 million people, most of them Jews, died at Auschwitz and Birkenau, neighboring camps built by the German occupiers near the Polish town of Oswiecim. Others who died there included Poles, Soviet prisoners of war, Roma, or Gypsies, and political opponents of the Nazis. *AP*



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Uribe, US ally, wins 2nd term in Colombia

BOGOTA—COLOMBIA'S PRESIDENT ALVARO Uribe, a staunch US ally, Sunday won a second term by a landslide he said he would celebrate by the tomb of his father, killed by the leftist insurgents he has pledged to defeat.

"With the heroism of our soldiers, we will move forward to have a more secure Colombia," said Uribe, who has stepped up military operations against armed groups since he came to office in 2002.

Uribe, a US- and British-educated lawyer, won reelection with 62 percent of the votes and a 40-point lead over his closest rival, leftist Sen. Carlos Gaviria.

His reelection bucks the political trend in a region dominated by leftist leaders whose relationship with Washington is often lukewarm.

URIBE: Tough work ahead. AP

Uribe is credited with reopening roads once controlled by bandits or insurgents, reducing crime rates, stepping up the offensive against leftist rebels, and reaching a pact that demobilized right-wing paramilitary fighters.

"Democratic security has started to regain the liberties that terrorism had taken from us," he told jubilant supporters gathered at a Bogota hotel after Sunday's voting.

An austere, yoga-practicing workaholic, Uribe said he would continue his crackdown against violence and drug trafficking in the South American country that ranks as the region's most violent, and the world's top producer of cocaine. *AFP*

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BBC: 1,000 UK troops have deserted Iraq war

LONDON—AT LEAST 1,000 troops have deserted Britain's armed forces since the US-led war was launched in Iraq three years ago, the BBC reported Sunday.

Britain's defense ministry said however it knew of only "a handful of deserters since 1989."

During 2005 alone, 377 people deserted and are still missing, the British Broadcasting Corp. said on its website, adding that so far this year another 189 are on the run.

Without explaining how it arrived at the figures, it said some 900 deserters have evaded capture since the Iraq war started in March 2003.

Lawmaker John McDonnell told parliament on Monday that the "number of abscondees has trebled since the invasion of Iraq" as he registered opposition to a government bill to sentence deserters to a maximum of life in prison.

McDonnell, who is among a leftwing group within the governing Labor party, said Sunday that the ministry of defense's denial "flies in the face of all the other evidence and the experience of soldiers on the ground.

A BRITISH soldier securing an area in Basra May 28. AFP

The BBC cited lawyers who represent troops at courts-martial as saying that growing numbers of soldiers are seeking advice from them about avoiding service in Iraq, even if they want to stop short of deserting.

Some 110 British troops have died in Iraq. Some 7,200 British servicemen and women are currently deployed in southern Iraq and neighboring Kuwait, where members of the Royal Air Force and other personnel are based. *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Crisis talks in Timor in face of chaos

DILI—East Timor's divided government held crisis talks on Monday following days of chaos that have pushed the nation close to civil war, as desperate residents went looting in search of food. While foreign peacekeepers patrolled the violence-scarred capital, angry crowds demanded the resignation of Prime Minister Mari Alkatiri, who has been widely criticized over the country's rapid descent into anarchy. Ethnic mobs have clashed in the streets using everything from machetes to bows and arrows, burning down houses and businesses and causing fears that an east-west rivalry in the tiny country could end up in civil war. Hundreds of protesters gathered outside the presidential palace as Alkatiri held talks inside with President Xanana Gusmao, a folk hero among East Timorese after spearheading the impoverished nation's bloody independence struggle. "Alkatiri is a terrorist! We will kill him! Viva Gusmao!" hundreds of protesters shouted outside the presidential palace. Fr. Eduard Dopo, principal of Dili's St. Joseph's College, said East Timor's people were anticipating major changes from the meeting. "People are waiting for the president to take strong action," he said. "Alkatiri has not been able to rule properly. There's been a power vacuum and the gangs have taken advantage of the situation to attack the people." *AFP*

Pentagon seeking non-nuke sub missile

NEW YORK—The Pentagon is pressing Congress to approve the development of a new weapon that would enable the United States to carry out non-nuclear missile strikes against distant targets within an hour, The New York Times reported in its Monday edition. Citing unnamed military officials, the newspaper said the proposal has set off a complex debate about whether this program for strengthening the military's conventional capacity could increase the risks of accidental nuclear confrontation. The Pentagon plan calls for deploying a non-nuclear version of the submarine-launched Trident II missile that could be used to attack terrorist camps, enemy missile sites, suspected caches of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons and other potentially urgent threats, the report said. If fielded, it would be the only non-nuclear weapon designed for rapid strikes against targets thousands of miles away and would add to the president's options when considering a preemptive attack, The Times pointed out. Gen. James Cartwright, head of the US Strategic Command, said the system would enhance the Pentagon's ability to "preempt conventionally" and precisely while limiting the "collateral damage," the paper reported. *AFP*

E-mail: pr_sports@inquirer.com.ph

SPORTS

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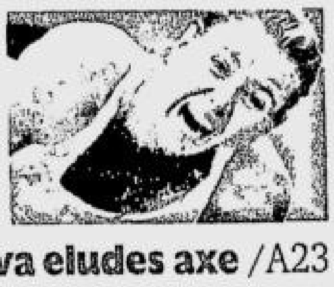

Rout of Iceland caps RP twin kill

By Roy Luarca

TURIN, ITALY—THE PHILIPPINES TURNED hot and melted Iceland in the 37th Chess Olympiad Sunday.

Creating a ripple, the Filipinos trounced the all-grandmaster Icelanders, 3.5-0.5, in the seventh round, to barge into contention halfway through the biennial event at the Olympic Village here.

Grandmaster Mark Paragua, GM Rogelio Antonio Jr. and Fide Master Oliver Dimakiling won their matches as the Philippines padded its total to 18 points and jumped to a share of 14th place with Round 8 opponent China, second-ranked India, Bulgaria, Belarus and Greece.

The Filipinas made it a double celebration by dumping the 50th-seeded Finland squad, 2.5-0.5.

Woman National Master Catherine Pereña and upcoming Sherily Cua notched the full point against WIM Tanja Rantanen and Laura Savala on boards 2 and 3 while WIM-elect Sheerie Joy Lomibao split the point with WIM Nina Sammalvuo on board 1.

Continuing their roller-coaster drive, the 60th-ranked Filipinas improved to 11.5 points and arranged a showdown with the 37th-seeded Iranians, who bowed to the Poles, 2-1, in Round 7.

ANTONIO: Stunning upset

PARAGUA: In just 27 moves

"The players got pumped up by the presence of National Chess Federation of the Philippines president Rep. Prospero "Butch" Pichay," said men's skipper Sammy Estimo. "He challenged them to blank Iceland."

It nearly became a reality as reigning national champion Darwin Laylo was on the verge of victory against GM Henrik Danielsen on board 3, but missed the winning move and settled for a draw on board 3.

Deftly handling white, Paragua started the onslaught when he bested GM Hlifar Hannes Stefansson in just 27 moves of a Spanish Game.

Antonio followed suit by trouncing former world championship challenger Johann Hjartarswon in 44 moves of a Nimzo-Indian Defense.

The 26-year-old Dimakiling completed the rout by humbling GM Throstur Thornhall in 47 moves of a Queen's Pawn Opening.

Pichay, who arrived Sunday afternoon and opted to stay with the Philippine delegation at the Olympic Village, again ordered the two squads to go all-out for victories in Round 8 on Monday.

Elated by the results, Estimo and women's team captain Cesar Caturla decided to field the same players against the Chinese, who will parade three super GMs, and the Iranians.

Paragua (Elo 2617) faces Bu Xianghi (2640), Antonio meets Zhang Zhong (2640), Daylo battles (Zhang Pengxiang (2623) and Dimakiling, who has a sore throat, tackles Wang Yue (2598).

In their last Olympiad confrontation in the 2000 Istanbul Olympiad, the Philippines edged China, 2.5-1.5, courtesy of IM Ildelfonso Datu, who downed former Asian junior champion Wu Wenjin.

The 22-year-old Paragua said he had beaten Bu once in 1998 in the world rapid tourney but has yet to meet the Chinese in standard play.

With 21 points, Armenia passed top favorite Russia in men's play, although the Russians continued to pace the women's side with 17.5 points, a point ahead of Ukraine.

STANDINGS AFTER 7 ROUNDS

MEN

21—Armenia; 20—Russia; 19.5—Cuba, Uzbekistan, Ukraine, Georgia, Czech Republic; 18.5—Netherlands, United States, Germany, Denmark, Sweden, France; 18—China, Bulgaria, Belarus, Greece, India, Philippines

WOMEN

17.5—Russia; 16.5—Ukraine; 15.5—United States; 15—Hungary, Georgia; 14.5—Bulgaria, Slovenia; 14—Vietnam, China, Latvia; 13.5—Romania, France, India, Armenia, Germany, Slovenia; 13—Cuba, Estonia, Netherlands, Belarus; 12.5—Switzerland, Poland, Israel, Argentina, Serbia & Montenegro, Greece, Spain, Ecuador; 12—Italy, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Turkey, Mongolia; 11.5—Denmark, Croatia, Indonesia, Moldova, Iran, Philippines

RP 8th round pairings: Men—vs. China; Women—vs. Iran

Pacquiao-Larios tango

PACQUIAO

By Hermie Rivera

COMMENTARY

LESS THAN A MONTH INTO THE FIGHT, Manny Pacquiao and Oscar Larios have started beating up their sparmates as they stepped up work for their July 2 slugfest at the Araneta Coliseum.

Pacquiao this early has been installed by the bookmakers as a heavy favorite owing to his ability to make sense of what he sees atop the ring anytime he fights.

But Larios himself is not an easy out.

While we go into the so-called stretch, essential aspects of the promotion such as ticket outlet locations and the like remain a guarded secret while inquiring minds want to know who is the real promoter of this mano a mano.

Pacquiao hasn't really had a bona fide promoter since Murad Muhammad and Gary Shaw were removed from the scene.

We gather that promotional activities are being handled by Manny's managers, Shelly Finkel and Nick Khan, when they pulled together with Manny, a $4,000,000 package from ABS-CBN.

Question—Will Finkel and Khan be delivering the undercard, paying production costs, and making ancillary deals? If so, they could be running afoul of the Muhammad Ali Boxing Reform Act—15 U.S.C. Section 6308 which provides:

(b) Firewall between promoters and managers (1) In general, it is unlawful for: (A) a promoter to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the management of a boxer; or (B) a manager (i) to have a direct or indirect financial interest in the promotion of a boxer; or (ii) to be employed by or receive compensation or other benefits from a promoter, except for amounts received as con-

PACQUIAO-LARIOS/ A23

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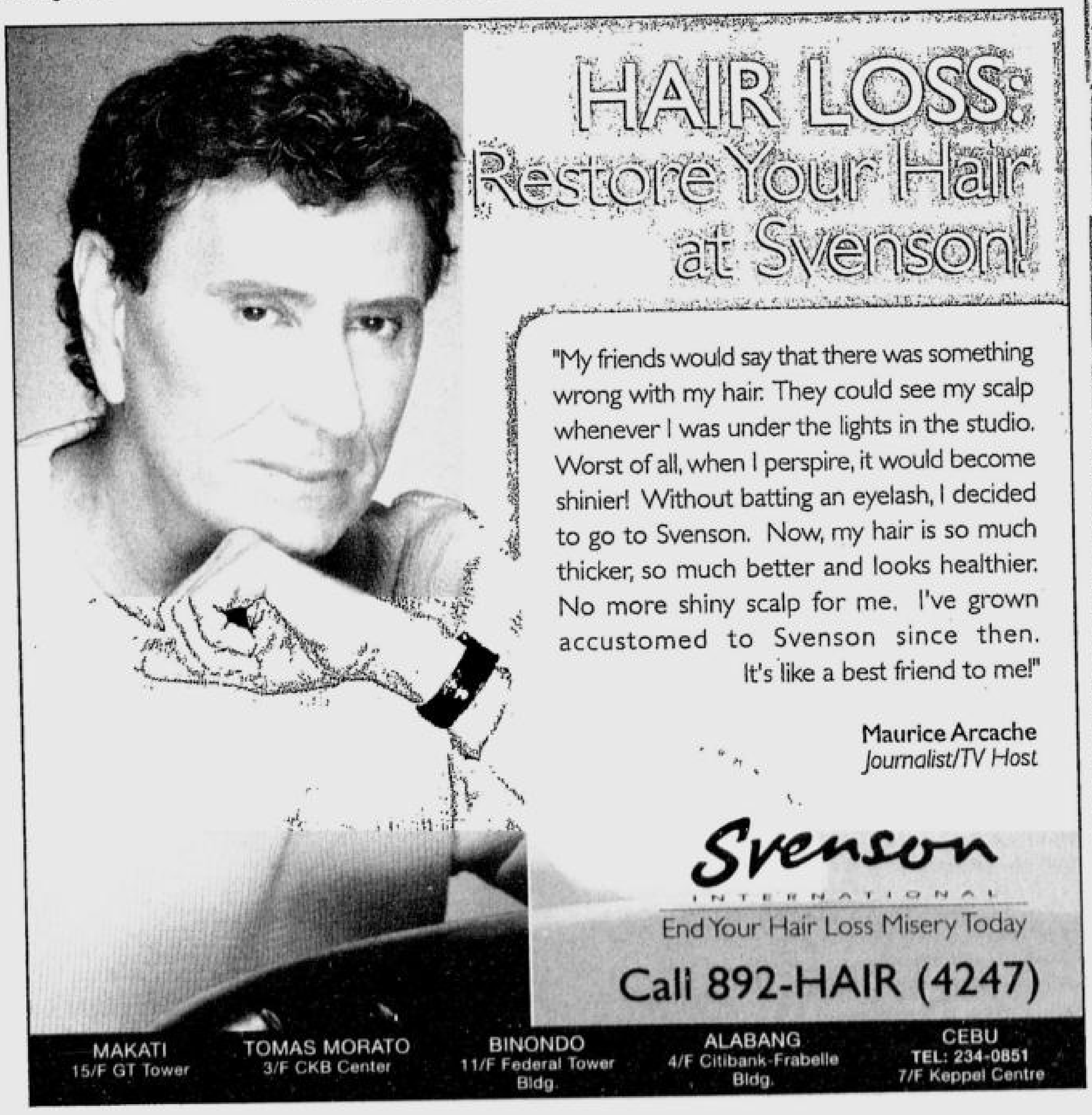
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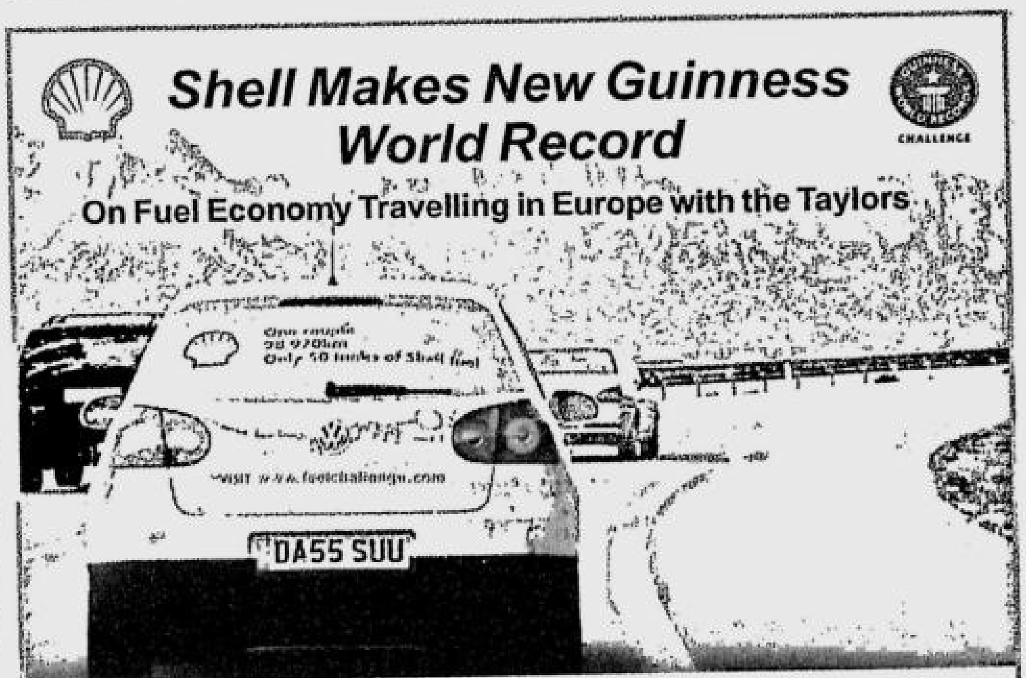

Shell Makes New Guinness World Record
On Fuel Economy Travelling in Europe with the Taylors

John and Helen Taylor started their epic journey in London on January 17, 2006. They passed through France and Belgium and proceeded to drive through the flatlands of Holland then Germany where they sampled generous portions of bratwurst during their first team meal together. Their first tough challenge came when they took on the mountainous landscape of Switzerland and were met with hazardous weather conditions brought about by the snow.

The Taylors had their first re-fuelling of the new Shell Fuel Economy gasoline in Italy and later got stuck in a terrible three-hour traffic jam in Milan. It was here that they were again reminded of the importance of staying calm for better fuel efficiency driving. Passing through the scenic mountain ranges and the Danube plains of Austria, the Taylors then proceeded to the Czech Republic where they spent one day of travelling in temperatures 15° below zero, with snow and bitter winds arriving as they left the country on their way to Slovakia.

The team then went through Hungary and Serbia where the latter's conditions were not ideal for fuel efficiency driving primarily because of the stark contrast between the flatness of the north and the vast mountains and dense forests of the south worsened by poor conditions in some roads. In mountainous Macedonia, the Taylors drove through its deep basins and valleys where their driving skills were yet again put to the test. The last stop in their European leg was in Greece where they had to take on steep and winding roads brought about by the diverse terrain of mountain ranges and coastal landscapes.

Despite the fact that everything seemed to be conspiring against achieving fuel efficiency, this part of the journey found Shell and the Taylors on track in their goal of completing a new Guinness World Record, which they did on April 4, 2006. During the European leg of their great adventure, they were able to cover 5,590 kilometers in eight (8) days of driving in very extreme conditions. This ultimate road test of the new Fuel Economy Formula is testament to Shell's commitment in developing fuels that address motorists' needs for greater fuel economy.

See more of the Taylors' record-breaking journey with Shell at www.fuelchallenge.com.

ADVT

Sparks, Portmasters seek 2nd wins

THE TOYOTA OTIS SPARKS AND HARbour Centre Portmasters try to move closer to a championship showdown when they shoot for a second straight victory in their respective semifinal assignments today in the PBL Unity Cup at the Olivarez Sports Center in Parañaque.

The Sparks collide with the defending champion Rain or Shine Elasto Painters at 2 p.m. while the Portmasters tangle with the Montana Jewels at 4 o'clock.

"We need to improve on the execution of our offense because we're becoming very predictable," said Toyota Otis coach Louie Alas, who won the opener of the best-of-five duel with a 64-59 decision.

For coach Jorge Gallent, consistency will be Harbour Centre's main concern following the Portmasters' near collapse after building a 34-point lead.

"We have to play smart from start to finish," noted Gallent. "I don't want what happened to us the last time."

The Portmasters scraped through, 85-79, as backup point guard Chico Lanete, capped a game-high 21 points with a key jumper and two free throws in the final minute.

GAMES TODAY (*Olivarez Sports Center*)
2 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Toyota Otis
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Montaña

"I have to credit Lanete for his clutch shooting," said Gallent.

The Sparks had a more balanced offensive performance in their Game 1 triumph.

Although Joe Devance didn't deliver his usual numbers, the top Fil-Am center figured in key plays as he scored six of his 12 points in the final quarter.

"I just hope we could sustain the momentum we gained in our victory the last time out," added Alas.

The Elasto Painters hope to regain their firepower with only Ronjay Enrile delivering consistently in the closing minutes of Game 1.

Shooting woes also hit the Jewels in Game 1, allowing the Portmasters to erect a 34-point cushion, 63-29, in the second quarter before Alex Compton and rookie Larry Rodriguez led Montaña's second-half comeback.

Lanete, acquired from Granny Goose this conference, has been providing huge offensive support to backcourt stars Joseph Yeo and LA Tenorio in the playoffs .

Fil-Am Rob Reyes also stepped up in the Portmasters' third straight win, contributing 16 points and nine rebounds off the bench. *Jasmine W. Payo*

ASIAN CLUB VOLLEY

Chinese test struggling RP spikers today

By Jasmine W. Payo

JUST THE SIGHT OF THE TALL CHINESE PLAYERS IS enough to make most teams nervous.

So it's quite a tough task for Philippine coach Constante Reyes to fire up his crew when it plays China in the 2006 Asian Women's Club volleyball championship at 4 p.m. today at the Rizal Memorial Coliseum.

"We're improving every game," said Reyes. "We have the skills, but we have to be consistent and more confident."

China will be gunning for a repeat of their championship run last year when they swept all games in the single round-robin competition.

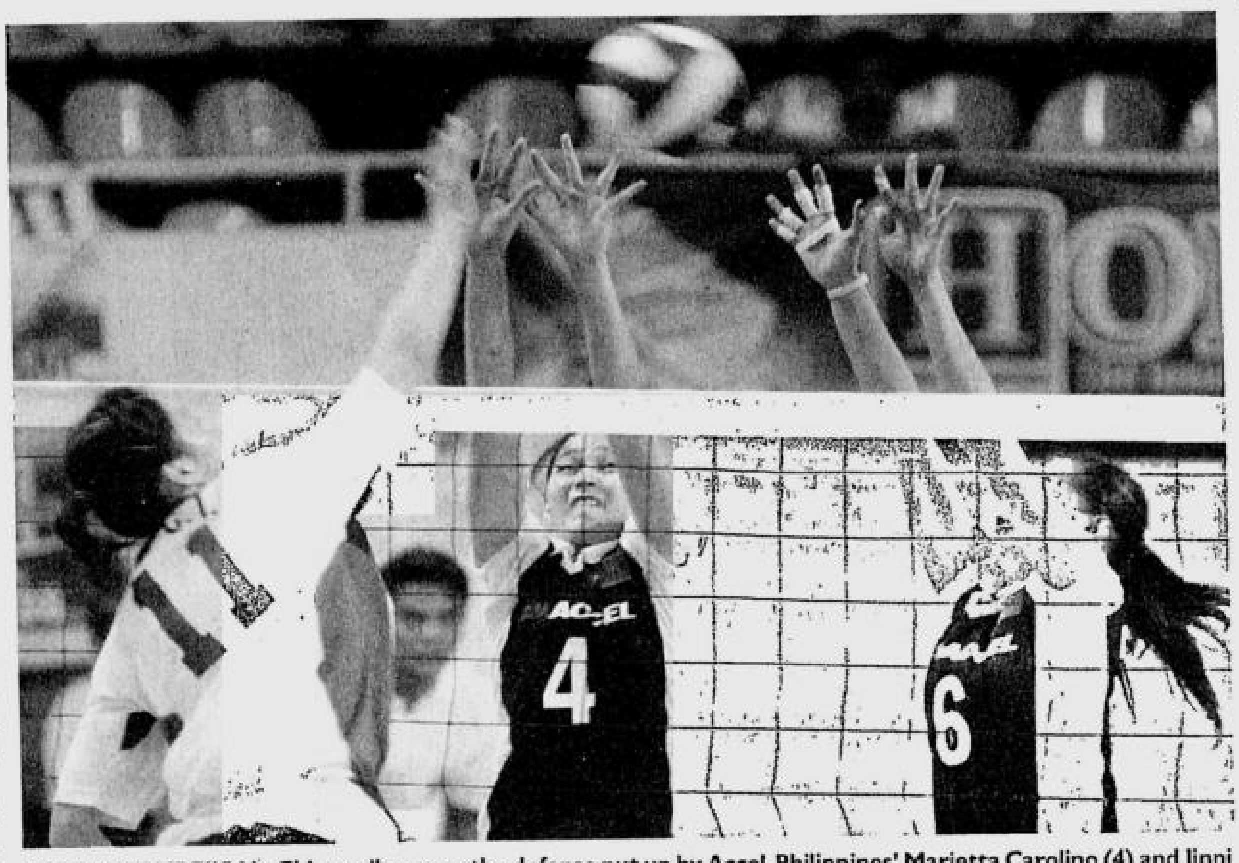
Bannered by the tournament's leading spiker Zhang Ziqian and top blocker Yang Yanan, Chinese coach Wang Baoquan has predicted that China would claim its second straight title.

"We expect to win the last game," said Baoquan. "We have plenty of advantage as far as our team is concerned. But we know the host team will try its best."

The sixth-ranked Filipinas, who will be playing their last match against tournament darkhorse Thailand tomorrow, have been turning to national team standouts Cherry Rose Macatangay, Mary Jean Balse and Michelle Carolino.

STANDINGS	W	L
China	5	0
Chinese-Taipei	4	1
Kazakhstan	2	2
Thailand	2	2
Japan	1	3
Philippines	1	3
Indonesia	0	4

GAMES TODAY
(*Rizal Coliseum*)
2 p.m.—Hisamitsu Seiyaku Springs (Japan) vs Garuda (Indonesia)
4 p.m.—Accel (Philippines) vs Tianjin Bridgestone (China)
6 p.m.—Rahat (Kazakhstan) vs Sang Som (Thailand)



CHINESE-TAIPEI'S Lin Ching spikes over the defense put up by Accel-Philippines' Marietta Carolino (4) and Jinni Mondejar last Thursday. The Taiwanese dealt the Filipinas their third defeat in four outings. RYAN LIM

"Our game against the reigning champion is a big test for my players," said Reyes.

"I'm hoping they will learn something from the match."

Thailand and Kazakhstan will dispute third spot at 6 p.m., while Indonesia will vie for its first win versus struggling Japan at 2 p.m.

The games will be shown on Solar Sports from 10 p.m. to 12 a.m. on June 5 to 11, and on IBC 13 from 6-8 p.m. starting on June 12.

Assad stuns Macatangay in Olivarez junior tennis

UNRANKED MAHA ASSAD PULLED OFF a 3-6, 6-3, (10-3) upset win over fourth seed Angel Macatangay to reach the girls' 18-under quarterfinals in the Olivarez Age-Group Tennis Championships at the Olivarez Tennis Center in Parañaque City.

Assad will meet July Javelosa, who scored a 6-1, 6-0 victory over Hannah Serrano.

In other matches, third seed Martina Rivero downed Rebecca Fabregas, 6-2, 6-4; Alyssa Mendoza rallied past Danielle Hallare, 1-6, 6-4, (10-4); Kwin Bilugan beat Nadine Castillo, 6-1, 6-0; and Yee Tao Tan prevailed over Claudine Cruz, 6-1, 6-3.

In the girls' 16-under, unseeded Liz Magaway ousted No. 4 July Javelosa,. 2-6, 7-5, (10-7), to advance against Martina Rivero, a 6-2, 6-2 winner over Louise Gomes.

Other winners were No. 1 Zhane Quitara over Sarina Samson, 6-0, 6-1; No. 5 Martina Guba over Maha Assad, 6-1, 6-0; Joan Opulencia over Danielle Hallare, 6-0, 6-1; and Louise Lopez over Nadine Castillo, 6-0, 6-0.

Booking quarterfinal berths in the girls' 14-under were JV Custodio, Joan Opulencia, Martina Guba, Shanine Olivarez, Rachel Lucero, Mary Grace Rivero, Ma. Raisa Opulencia and Enah Baba, while the winners in the girls' 12-under class were Akiko de Guzman, Marinel Ferry, Ma. Aura Opulencia, Pia Tamayo and Treena Quirrez.

Other results: 18-under—Niko Katigbak d. France Rivero, 6-3, 6-2; Riel Floreza d. Justin Mendoza, 6-2, 6-4.

The first is last

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

ON FOOT, IT WILL TAKE YOU MAYBE ONE hour to cover 9 kilometers? By car, maybe 9 minutes only?

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In meters, that's 8,857.62, or a total of 8.85762 kilometers. Round that off and it's 9 kms.

Nine kilometers is, like, from Rizal Park to Bicutan down south or Balintawak up north?

Whatever, Leo Oracion, officially recorded as the first Filipino to reach the summit of Mt. Everest, took 24 days to do it (from April 24-May 17 this year).

Erwin "Pastor" Emata did it in 25 days (from April 24-May 18).

Now you have an idea of how difficult a climb Mt. Everest is.

It isn't clear yet how many hours, or days, it took Romi Garduce to become the third Filipino to scale Mt. Everest; he reached the summit two days after Oracion did.

But of the three, it's on record Garduce was the first to leave for Nepal, where Mt. Everest is, on March 3. Two weeks later, Oracion and Emata arrived in Nepal.

Why the three did their climbing the same month, the same year, seems material. Why not Garduce doing it last year, or vice versa?

Coincidence or competition?

Oracion and Emata, Coast Guardmen, were ABS-CBN financed.

Garduce, 37, an IT manager from Balanga, Bataan, was funded by rival TV network, GMA-7.

Coincidence?

Competition?

Ten years ago on May 24, Hans Kammerlander of Italy recorded the fastest ascent from the base camp in 16 hours and 45 minutes.

Quite a feat but to Garduce, records do not mean a thing.

"I did not do it to race," said Garduce. "I just executed my plan."

I like that. Any task, for that matter, should never be a race, especially if the degree of difficulty involved in it is life-threatening.

This climbing season alone, 10 have died trying to climb Mt. Everest.

So bizarrely difficult is the Everest challenge that you need to reach the top and then come down alive to complete the feat. Under Everest laws, reaching the summit is just one-half of the story. Descending to the foot of the mountain alive completes the story.

One such climber believed to have scaled Everest in 1929 but never made it back was found in 1990, his body frozen. It was ruled he did not scale Everest because he didn't come back alive.

Now listen to this. Do you know it takes a fortune for one to even start attempting to climb Mt. Everest?

And if we go by the occupations of Oracion, Emata and Garduce, not a single one of them can afford the fees needed for a Mt. Everest expedition.

According to my buddy, Loren Manguiat, the Ministry of Tourism of Nepal charges a solo climber US$25,000. That's roughly P1.3 million!

Give me P1 million and I'll buy me an Innova or an Urvan for a shuttle service business.

"That's not all, Sir," said Loren. "A group of 2 will be charged US$40,000, US$48,000 for 3, US$56,000 for 4, US$60,000 for 5, and so on and so forth."

No less than 5 persons were involved in each of the expeditions of Oracion, Emata and Garduce, not to include TV crews for both networks.

Coincidence? Competition?

One Filipino surnamed Abenojar has claimed he was the first to reach "the roof of the world."

Now if he can show proof, darn.

To do it, Abenojar, who claimed he climbed Mt. Everest un-financed by any one except himself, must shell out US$9,000 more to get the certificate attesting to his feat.

It's that expensive.

Now if, for example, Valentin Dakuykoy, my ever loyal legman, beats Abenojar and produces one himself, will VD receive the same celebrity status accorded Oracion, Emata and Garduce?

Think hard, fellas.

From what I heard, the diploma shops at C.M. Recto Avenue have been all shut down.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Tiu leads Team Ere to 3 drag racing titles

ROSARIO, BATANGAS—TEAM ERE made a big impact as lead driver Jonathan Tiu led an impressive haul of three of the four titles at stake in the second leg of the 2006 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship at the BRC Drag Strip here recently.

A first-timer, Team ERE captured the overall team crown over the favored Blanche Racing, Group N and Just Racing as Joseph Susara and lady driver Jeanette Go ably backed up Tiu with separate wins.

Nobody thought that the old record of 11.58, owned by Blanche Racing's Dave Jota, could be broken but Tiu's Mitsubishi Evo5 car stunned the field when he set a new record time of 11.309 seconds. That won for him the premier Quick 8 plum over Blanche Racing's Jose Uy who clocked 11.698.

"The mechanics did a good job and we're very happy that the team achieved its goals," said Tiu.

Susara submitted a time of 11.368 to bag the Pro class crown, beating Jota, who clocked 11.622 in this event sponsored by Red Horse Beer, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office and supported by Pilipinas Shell, Denso, Yokohama, Casino Filipino and Sparco.

JONATHAN Tiu's Mitsubishi Evo5 (left) passes Blanche Racing's Jose Uy in the first 200 meters of their final faceoff for the Quick 8 crown.

Go outshone her male rivals as she prevailed over Team Ready's Vic Mallare in the final faceoff to clinch the Hotstreet title.

The only other title that eluded Team Ere went to Marlon Juntilla of Just Racing, who copped the Sportsman class crown against Japanese Sinichi Kuruda of Creative Speed.

Eighty drivers showed up in the races sanctioned by the Automobile Association Philippines.

The next leg is set June 17. For inquiries, call the BRC through Rodini Rivera, or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365.

SPORTSWATCH

FEU spikers unscathed in Toribio Cup

FAR EASTERN UNIVERSITY CONTINUED TO DOMINATE THE FIFTH F.C. Toribio Seniors Volleyball Cup by posting its sixth victory in a row at the expense of College of Saint Benilde in the women's division and a fourth straight win over Letran in men's play. FEU dealt St. Benilde its fourth loss in six matches, 25-17, 30-28, 25-22, the same record of the University of the Philippines which bowed to Adamson, 25-20, 25-13, 25-14, in the tournament organized by University of the East's Brenn Perez at the UE Gym 5 in Manila. Host UE defeated National U, 25-10, 25-9, 25-16, to stay in solo second with a 5-1 card, while Letran tied Adamson at 4-2 with a 25-15, 25-16, 25-17 whipping of Earist. FEU's 26-24, 25-20, 25-19 victory over Letran kept it atop the men's standings of the tournament held in honor of Francisco Toribio, UE's former volleyball coach and the winningest mentor in the University Athletic Association of the Philippines. In the other men's match, UE brought down San Beda College, 25-20, 25-18, 25-13, for its second win in five matches.

60 matches in Sta. Ana derby today

SOME 60 MATCHES ARE ON TAP IN A SPECIAL 3-COCK DERBY AT THE Sta. Ana Cockpit on AP Reyes Avenue, Makati City, tonight. A guaranteed prize of P150,000 awaits the champions, according to hosts Boy Macario and Dong Tongco. Seeing action are derby regulars from Pasay, Makati, Parañaque, San Juan, Mandaluyong and Pasig. For inquiries, call 898-3474 or 898-3475. The Flower Group 4-Cock Derby comes next on June 6. The venue's "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" resumes on Saturday, according to pit manager Butchoy Olano. The total prize is P100,000 for an entry fee of P1,100.

P1.5M Roligon 5-cocker gets going

MORE THAN 75 FIGHTS HAVE BEEN ROSTERED FOR THE KAYANG-KAYA 5-Cock Derby which starts today at the Roligon Mega Cockpit in Parañaque City. A cash pot of P1.5 million is at stake in the derby scheduled on May 30, June 1 and 3, sponsored by Lakpue Drug Inc. and Thunderbird Enertone, and hosted by promoter Rolly Ligon. Entry fee is P7,700. The fastest win champion will drive home a three-door Pajero automatic. Walk-in participants may still join Thursday's second round eliminations. The finals is set on Saturday. For inquiries, call Tiling or Jona at 833-1638, 851-2275 or 852-9812.

Submission of GCAP cockfest entries up

TODAY IS THE DEADLINE FOR THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES IN THE GENtlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines (GCAP) 5-Cock Derby slated tomorrow at the San Juan Coliseum. Main sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. GCAP members as well as guest participants may submit entries until 9 p.m. For inquiries, call the SJC office at 725-5369. Action begins at 5 p.m. tomorrow with some 70 fights on tap. The 2006 GCAP Cocker of the Year winner will be known on June 21 after the Grand Championship 5-Cock Derby. Meanwhile, preparations are also under way for the Super Big Event 8-Cock Derby which will kick off on June 26 and 28 at the same venue.

61 entries collide in Enriquez-Velayo tilt

THE COUNTRY'S FINEST COCKFIGHTERS LOCK HORNS TONIGHT AS THE Firebird-Arnismaster 6-Cock Derby takes center stage at the Araneta Coliseum. Scheduled today is the 2-cock eliminations among 61 participants who will shoot for berths in the 4-cock finals on Thursday. The derby is hosted by multititled gamefowl breeder Biboy Enriquez and sportsman Raymond Velayo. Among those unleashing their ace fighting birds are Gerry Ramos and Sonny Lagon, Tony Oppen, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Rep. Estrella, Rep. Iggy Arroyo, Gov. Tony Kho of Masbate, Gen. Katigbak and Richard Bates, Bong Pineda, Francis Uy, Ricky Castillo, Jet and Joel Fernando, Joey Dy, Boy Diaz and Butch Littaua, POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and Louie Cua.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Samahan (8), American Beauty (4), Something Silver (6), Sr Clozon (5)
Race 2—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Humble Guest (7), Speed Assault (6), Tiger Lewis (8), Maricor's Charm (3), Shadow Quest (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—He's A balong (1), Gold Collar (6), Top Quest (3), Princess Dancer (7)
Race 4—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Wind Runner (3), Renzie Stays (1), Cara Dura/Batang Westside (5), Lucky Joe (8), Manila's Style (9)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Bunker Buster (1), Mercurian (14), At All Cost (3), Mas Que Nada (11), Prince Valiant (10)
Race 6—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Mark's Rose (6), Thriple Threat (5), Smarty Pants (8), Jetprop (2), Country Boy (10)
Race 7—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—My Lady Hannah (14), Honoree (3), Dynamic Jason (2), Dona Gelay (11), Look Of Love (13), Perfect Time (1)
Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Federal Court (7), Kangalan (2), Wet N Wild (10), Silver Cho Cho (4), Lady Tycoon (6), Hurry Prince (13)

Bonds grabs 2nd over Ruth in MLB homer derby

BONDS: No. 715

SAN FRANCISCO—San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds homered in Sunday's game against the Colorado Rockies to pass legendary Babe Ruth for second place on Major League Baseball's all-time home run list.

Bonds recorded his 715th career homer, placing him behind only record-holder Hank Aaron, who hit 755.

"It's a great honor, it's a wonderful honor," Bonds said. "Hank Aaron to me is the home run king and I won't disrespect that ever.

"Babe Ruth has 714 home runs but Hank has 755. I have a lot of respect for Babe Ruth and I have a lot of respect for what he's done for the game of baseball, but I have to give the head up to Hank Aaron because he is the home run king."

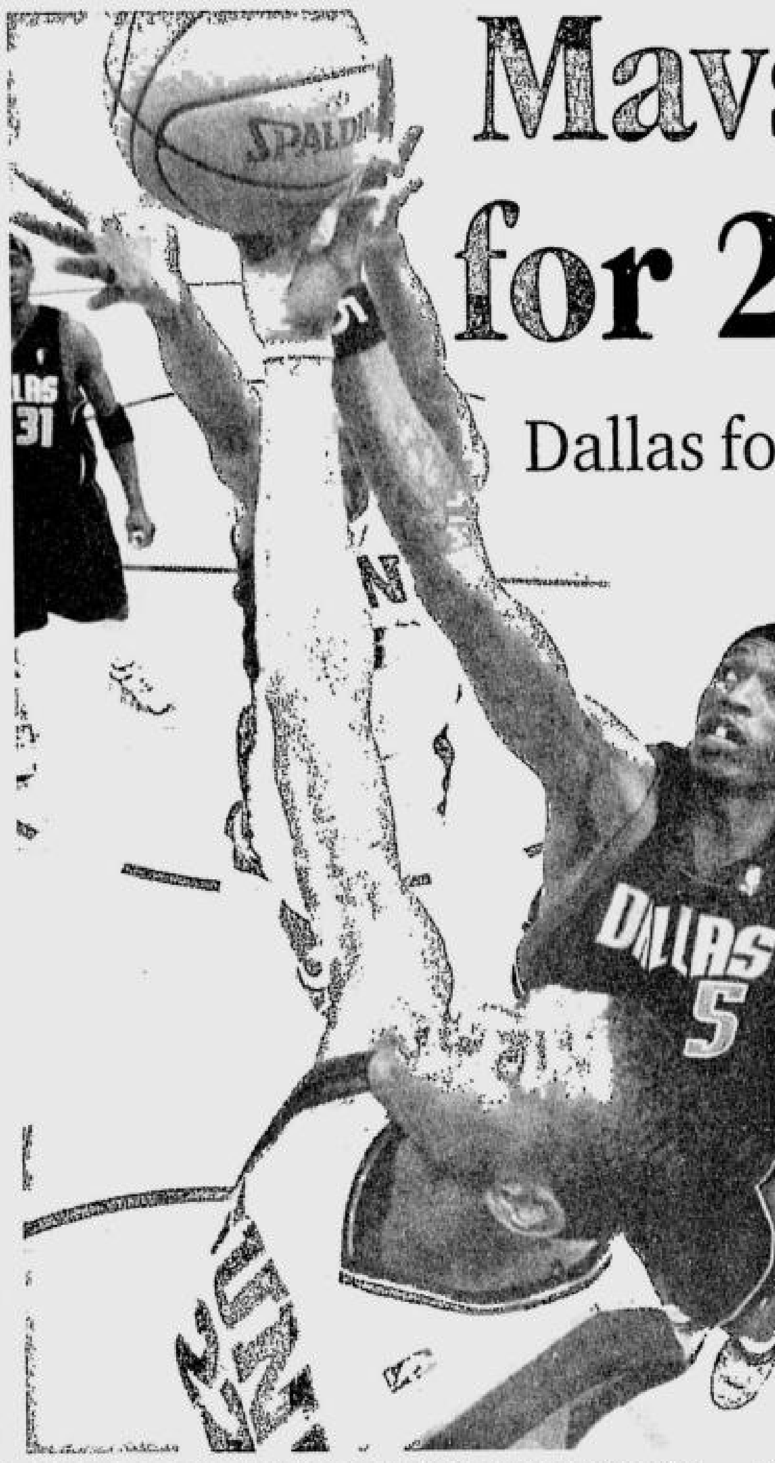
Bonds smacked a two-run homer over the right-centerfield wall off a 3-ball, 2-strike pitch from Korean Byung-Hyun Kim in the fourth inning. But the Giants went on to lose, 6-3.

Bonds was pleased the homer came in San Francisco, where fans have continued to back him despite allegations of steroid use that have raised a debate over the legitimacy of his feats.

"For me to do it in front of the fans of San Francisco, it can't get any better than this," Bonds said. "I made them wait longer than I've made them wait in the past. But there was no greater place for this to happen than in San Francisco." *AFP*

Mavs eclipse Suns for 2-1 series lead

Dallas forces Phoenix meltdown in 2nd half



DALLAS' Josh Howard blocks a driving James Jones of Phoenix. AP

PHOENIX, ARIZONA—THE DALLAS MAVERicks brought the National Basketball Association's most feared fast-break team to a standstill with a 95-88 semifinal playoff win over Phoenix Suns on Sunday.

Dirk Nowitzki had 28 points and 17 rebounds for the fourth-seeded Mavericks, who engineered a remarkable defensive effort in game three of their best-of-seven series.

"We were great with our transition defense," Nowitzki said. "Down the stretch we executed at both ends of the floor.

"Against this team no lead is safe because we know they can come back anytime."

Dallas stymied the second-seeded Suns in two-straight games after giving away the opener at home. Dallas improved to 5-2 on the road.

Mavericks coach Avery Johnson admitted that his team cannot afford to run with the Suns, who use a wide-open offence piloted by Canadian Steve Nash to press the tempo better than any team in the league.

To combat the run-and-gun Suns, Johnson has demanded patience on offense and hustle on defense.

"This is a big win for us but we have got to stay focused," Nowitzki said.

Second in the NBA in fast-break points during the season, Phoenix managed just four fast-break points Sunday—and zero in the second half.

The offense grinded to a halt, totalling just 36 points after halftime and failing to reach 90 for the first time in the postseason.

Dallas got the offense it needed from Nowitzki, Josh Howard and Jason Terry, who combined for 40 of their 69 points in the second half.

Howard scored 16 of his 22 points and Terry 10 of his 19 after halftime.

The Mavericks also had the upper hand in effort and concentration. They held edges in rebounds (48-45), offensive rebounds (19-12) and steals (8-0) while committing just six turnovers and forcing 13. Nowhere was that more evident that down the stretch.

Trailing by as many as nine points in the fourth quarter, the Suns closed to 88-84 and had the ball when Tim Thomas made a lazy pass to Nash that was stolen by Howard, who went in for a layup with 2:10 left.

After Shawn Marion missed a three-pointer, the Mavericks held the ball for more than a minute, grabbing three offensive rebounds.

They may have received a break when Nowitzki's desperation 30-footer was ruled to have hit the rim and Terry sealed it with a jumper for a 92-84 bulge with 33 seconds to go.

Howard pulled down 12 rebounds for Dallas, which never trailed in the fourth quarter and won despite shooting 41 percent (39-of-95).

Nash scored 21 points, Boris Diaw added 20 and Leandro Barbosa 17 for the Suns, who shot 43 percent (35-of-82). *AFP*

- NBA on TV

SOLAR SPORTS: 8 a.m—Detroit vs. Miami (replay at 8 p.m.)

Pacquiao-Larios tango

From page A21

sideration under the manager's contract with the boxer.

Manny has formed his own promotional company right?

Just what role will this company play in the promotion and who are the principals in charge? Will Finkel and Kahn use Pacquiao Promotions as a veil to shield their promotional activities? How will Finkel, Khan, Pacquiao Promotions and ABS-CBN operate? The roles are blurred—maybe purposely so—but it would be interesting to know "who's on first?"

While we wait for answers, may we suggest the immediate adoption or a strengthened version of the Muhammad Ali Act to help fighters who have been victimized by unscrupulous promoters and managers.

Our lawmaking officials can enact one if they so desire assuming they aren't into something mischievous such as coup d' etats or cha-chas.

French Open: Sharapova eludes axe

PARIS—THE FRENCH OPEN STARTED on a Sunday for the first time and nearly ended quickly for Maria Sharapova.

The former Wimbledon champion overcame a gimpy foot, a 5-2 deficit in the third set and three match points to beat Mashona Washington 6-2, 5-7, 7-5.

The match was the first since April 1 for Sharapova, who withdrew from two events leading up to Roland Garros because of a right ankle injury. Her movement was clearly hampered, even after a trainer rewrapped the ankle following the second set.

But the 29-year-old Washington, who came into the tournament ranked 97th, failed to close out a win that would have been the biggest of her career. Sharapova won the final five games to limp into the second round.

"I was playing with pain, and I blocked it out somehow and started moving better, and she got a little bit tight," Sharapova said. "I knew I wouldn't be playing 100 percent. I'm obviously not moving great."

Roland Garros added a 15th day of play this year to extend into a third weekend, and neither Sharapova nor top-ranked Roger Federer was thrilled with the early start. Federer lost his first two service games to fall behind 3-0, then gradually found his form and beat qualifier Diego Hartfield, 7-5, 7-6, 6-2.

Top-ranked Amelie Mauresmo of France pleased a partisan crowd by beating Meghann Shaughnessy, 6-4, 6-4. Mauresmo celebrated with a leaping fist pump when she broke serve in the next-to-last game, then finished with her eighth ace.

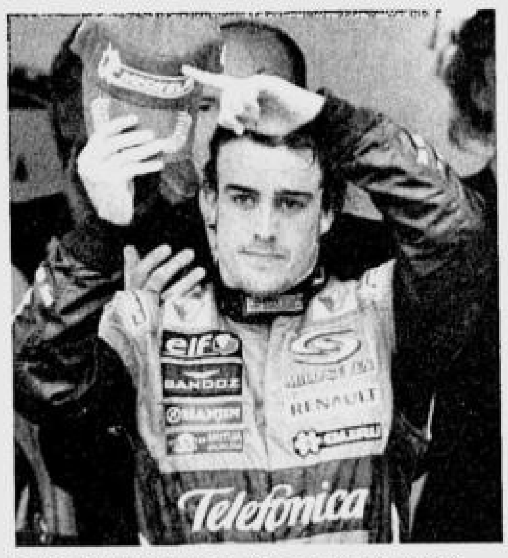
No. 14 Dinara Safina, No. 22 Ai Sugiyama and No. 25 Marion Bartoli also advanced.

Juan Antonio Marin and Kenneth Carlsen failed to snap long losing streaks. Marin fell to 0-17 in Grand Slam events — the worst record in the Open Era — when he lost to Carlos Moya 7-5, 6-3, 6-3. Carlsen's skid at Roland Garros reached nine consecutive matches, dating back to 1995, as he lost to Tim Henman, 6-3, 6-4, 4-6, 6-4.

No. 3-seeded David Nalbandian defeated Stanislas Wawrinka 6-2, 7-6 (5), 6-4. No. 7 Tommy Robredo swept Tomas Zib 6-4, 6-2, 6-2.

Washington kept Sharapova on the run with shots into the corners and reached her first match point at 5-3. Sharapova calmly erased it with a forehand winner. Washington held two more match points serving at 5-4, but lost the first with a backhand long, then lost her last one when Sharapova whacked another forehand winner.

MARIA Sharapova serves to courageous American Mashona Washington. AP



FERNANDO Alonso of Renault salutes his fans after his maiden Monaco win. AP

Monaco breakthrough for Alonso

MONTE CARLO—THERE ISN'T MUCH LEFT FOR FERNANdo Alonso to accomplish in Formula One.

He won the world title last season at 24. He won in his native Spain and got to give King Juan Carlos a ride.

And on Sunday he won the Monaco Grand Prix.

"We did it," Alonso said.

The victory in Monte Carlo gave Alonso his second victory in a row, and his fourth this season.

"This is a special place for any driver to win a race, for the history, for what it represents to Formula One and because it is such a big challenge to get through the race with no mistakes," Alonso said.

And with the quick start this season, there is the distinct possibility of another season title. "In seven races, four wins and three seconds is a perfect start," he said.

In Sunday's race, Alonso was followed by Juan Pablo Montoya of McLaren-Mercedes and David Coulthard of Red Bull. It was the first podium for Red Bull in an F1 race.

Ironically, it was a future McLaren driver, a current McLaren driver and a past McLaren driver on the podium. Alonso heads to McLaren next year, and Coulthard won the Monaco race twice for McLaren.

Rubens Barrichello in a Honda was fourth with Michael Schumacher of Ferrari fifth and Giancarlo Fisichella sixth in a Renault.

The victory 12th of Alonso's career. He has 64 points with Schumacher on 43 going into the June 11 British Grand Prix. Raikkonen and Fisichella are tied for third with 27.

Alonso's task was made easier when Kimi Raikkonen of McLaren, last year's winner, dropped out and five-time Monaco champion Schumacher was penalized before the race began.

Alonso and Raikkonen were separated by less than a second through 50 laps when Raikkonen's engine gave out. *AP*

Hornish edges rookie Andretti for Indy 500 title

INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA—POLESITTER SAM Hornish edged teen rookie Marco Andretti by .06 of a second Sunday, winning the 90th Indianapolis 500 in the second-closest finish in race history. Hornish, whose best finish in six prior Indys was 14th in 2001, overcame a pit stop penalty to outrace the grandson of racing legend Mario Andretti to the checkered flag in an all-American duel on the final straightaway. Hornish recovered from a penalty with 50 laps remaining after he pulled away from a pit stop before the fuel hose had been disconnected, tearing the nozzle loose as it stuck in the side of his car. He was forced back to the pits and punishment but rallied for a thrilling victory over Andretti. *AFP*

Adventure of a lifetime for five MAT bets

ENGINEERING STUDENT KRIStian Ryan Cruz was content to be picked as one of the 50 finalists who went through a three-day test of endurance and determination during the Marlboro Adventure Team trials in Tagaytay recently.

All along, he thought his adventure of a lifetime ended there.

But organizers of this year's final test were impressed with the skills the 20-year-old Cruz showed in negotiating tough trails on motorcycles and quads, rappelling, trekking, and driving 4x4 jeeps on tough terrain.

Nobody, except Cruz, was surprised when it was announced he had made this year's MAT team that will experience 10 days of fun and adventure on the treacherous deserts of Moab, Utah, later this year.

"I expected them (selectors) to go for older guys, those in the 25-age range," Cruz said. "But I really tried my best."

Parokya ni Edgar bass player Buhawi Meneses, doctor Don Benjamin Serrano, businesswoman Diane Gretchen Basaca and call center coach Teodulfo Lumague III also made it to the team which was given a sendoff party recently at Le Pavilion on Roxas Boulevard.

The five emerged as the best from some 555,000 adventure-seekers who answered the call of Philip Morris Philippines Manufacturing Inc. to determine this year's entries to the Moab adventure. The list was trimmed down to 2,000 after the first screening.

After interviews and tests, the list was further scaled down to the final 50 aspirants who were given a taste of the adventure they will face in Moab through a three-day camp in Tagaytay.

"What we sought are those who have the spirit of adventure, camaraderie, team play, attitude and character," said PMPMI managing director Chris Nelson. "These are the attributes needed to live through 10 days of adventure in the unforgiving landscape of Moab.

"Again, we have achieved what the MAT has always wanted to achieve, and that is to come up with a team that underlines what adventure is, that out there is freedom with nature."

Marlboro brand manager Eric Carandang, for his part, said: "The finalists in Tagaytay are actually already winners by themselves."

Young entrepreneur Basaca, one of only a few women among the finalists, echoed Cruz's sentiments.

"We were treated equally (in the finals) and we all enjoyed it," the 21-year-old Basaca said. "It's hard to think that you were in some kind of competition. I'll really train hard for Utah."

Meneses' passion for adventure had to take a backseat when Parokya ni Edgar started to stamp its mark on the local music scene more than a decade ago. This time, Meneses finally gets a chance to live his dream, a chance he considers once in a lifetime.

"The outdoors is my life," the 29-year-old Meneses said. "Music got in the way; it became my profession. This is a big chance for me to get back to the outdoors. I didn't expect to go to places like Utah. The Tagaytay camp was already a big thing for me.

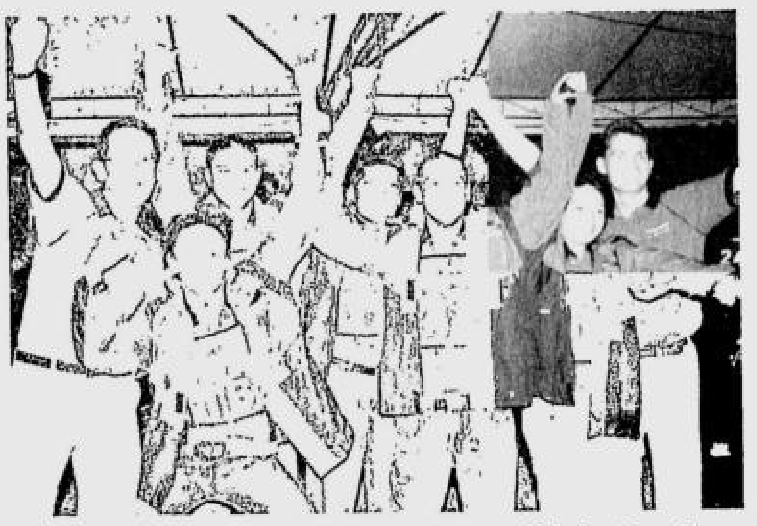
"It's a big achievement. I have always wanted to raise the RP flag and represent the Philippines in any way."

"This is unexplainable, the adrenalin is up my head," said the ecstatic Lumague. "We're going to train more. I didn't prepare that well for this, but for the US trip, we're going to train harder."

Free time is rare for Serrano but he is already planning to spend more time out of the hospital and do more than just his usual light workout and jogging in the morning to get in the best possible shape for Moab.

"I'm so happy," Serrano said. "Look at all these people. All were good, all were very competitive, all were adventurous. I guess they saw something special in me. Maybe they saw my perseverance and the hard work I did in all of the challenges."

For these five, Moab beckons.



CHOSEN FEW: Buhawi Meneses, Don Serrano, Kristian Cruz, Teo Lumague and Diane Basaca (second to sixth from left) whoop it up with Marlboro brand manager Eric Carandang (left) and PMPMI marketing director Maarten Kila during the recent sendoff party.

Olympic Festival lures 7,000 athletes

ABOUT 7,000 ATHLETES FROM 27 SPORTS will take part in the 1st Philippine Olympic Festival in venues all over the country from June 18-25.

Nueva Ecija hosts the Milo National Open in athletics; the Mindanao Civic Center in Tubod, Lanao del Norte, will be the venue of boxing; Tagaytay City will hold chess and sepak takraw events; while archery, canoe-kayak and equestrian will be held in Subic.

Several national sports associations (NSAs) will use the event, backed by local government units (LGUs), either as qualifying for the coming 15th Asian Games in Doha, Qatar, or to simply discover new talents.

"We are starting to build stronger ties with the LGUs," said POC chair Robert Aventajado.

Tomas Joson III, the Nueva Ecija governor, welcomed the chance to host athletics in his province's newest pride—the multimillion peso Nueva Ecija Sports Complex.

"Nueva Ecija has been a consistent source of great Filipino athletes," Joson said. "In fact we want to be among the main sources of athletic potentials."

Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino said scenic Tagaytay aims to be the center not only of chess but of other sports.

"Everybody is welcome in Tagaytay City. We are actually inviting everybody here, not only chess and sepak takraw," Tolentino said.

A part of the country's observance of the founding of the World Olympic Movement and the International Olympic Committee, the inaugural edition of the Philippine Olympic Festival will have 27 sports to be played simultaneously.

Other sports slated: aquatics (Trace College, Laguna), arnis (SM Fairview), badminton (Rizal Memorial), baseball (RMSC), basketball (Taguig City), billiards (RMSC), bowling (PBC), Dragon Boat (Baywalk), fencing (Fencing Hall-PSC), football (Marikina), golf (Villamor), gymnastics (Ninoy Aquino Stadium), judo (TBA), karatedo (TBA), powerlifting (Robinson's Place, Cavite), table tennis (SM Manila), taekwondo (RMSC), weightlifting (Philsports), Wushu (NAM).

LOCAL executives and sportsmen join hands in the staging of the first Olympic Festival. From left, Lanao del Norte Gov. Imelda Quibranza-Dimaporo, POC president Jose Cojuangco Jr., POC chair Robert Aventajado, Tagaytay Mayor Bambol Tolentino and Nueva Ecija provincial board member Edward Joson.

DOWN AND OUT OF THE RACE

Jockey Jeffril Zarate (on the ground) narrowly avoids Special Edition (second from left) after falling off his mount, Mr. Victory, at the start of the Eduardo Cojuangco Jr. Cup, the 2006 Triple Crown series' first leg on Sunday at the San Lazaro Leisure Park in Carmona, Cavite. Eventual winner Don Exequiel (fourth from right) used a great jump out of the gates under Ronaldo Baldonido before holding off Special Edition in a furious battle in the stretch to win the P1.2 million top prize for owner Hermie Esguerra. Jet Sutter (sixth from left) settled for third, a length back, while Tigres in Action was fourth with Batong Silyar, a longshot like Don Exequiel, checking in fifth. Don Exequiel's winning time was 1:41 (24', 23', 25, 28) over the mile. Santiago, Dixie The Younger, top favorite Million Dollar and Twelve or Never rounded out the order of finish.

Teener tops Palaui aquathlon; De Leon rules women's race

By Melvin Gascon
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SANTA ANA, CAGAYAN—A 14-year-old triathlete from Laguna ruled Saturday's Speedo Palaui Island Aquathlon Challenge here.

Jerome Reluya of the Laguna Mako Sharks team of Los Baños outlasted 46 other triathletes from all over the country to capture overall honors.

Reluya conquered the 6-kilometer course in 47 minutes and 46 seconds.

Pol Reyes, 37, came in second in 48:37 while Leian Cruz was third with a time of 0:49:43.

The course involved a 2.5-km mountain run up to the historic Engano lighthouse at 93 meters above sea level, through Palaui's old-growth forest, a 1-km swim and another 2.5-km run, again scaling the Engano lighthouse and down to the finish line at the Engano beach.

"It was tough, especially the climb," Reluya said. "But it was wonderful and exhilarating once you get to the lighthouse at the top of the hill because of the beautiful view of the sea and the island from up there."

The Reluyas made it a family affair as Jerome's twin brother, Joseph, placed seventh, with their father, Ronnie, placing third in the 45-50 age group.

Topping the women's category was 31-year-old Ani de Leon, a member of the national triathlon team that participated in the last Southeast Asian Games, who timed 49:49.

Set on the Cape Engano cove, the event intends to promote Palaui Island as an eco-tourism destination, as officials here said it could easily rival Boracay Island in Aklan as a prime summer destination.

The aquathlon challenge, the second to be held in this town, was organized by the provincial government of Cagayan, the Cagayan Economic Zone Authority, the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and other sponsors.

Other age group champions in the men's division of the event also supported by Herbalife, Asian Centre for Insulation Phils. were Joseph Reluya (15 and below), Miguel Ferido (20-24), Joseph De Vera (30-34), Ed Ticzon (35-39), Loi Rafols (40-44), Ironman veteran Mark Houle (45 to 49) and Chito Noel (50 and above).

In the women's side, Patricia Baybayan was tops in the 15 and below, Mimi Opulencia took the 20 to 24 group, Pinky Pahud emerged champion in the 25 to 29 while Rolaine Pardola ruled the 40 to 44 group in the race that projected the natural and unspoiled beauty of Palui Island.

Chan gives RP high mark as b'minton host

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES PASSED ITS FIRST LITMUS test as an international badminton host with flying colors.

This was how national head coach Errol Chan assessed the country's hosting of the recent Bingo Bonanza Philippine Open championships where the Filipino shuttlers performed creditably against the best in the world.

Though the country's bets could muster only a runner-up finish courtesy of world-ranked Kennie and Kennevic Asuncion in the mixed doubles—the 19 others failed to go beyond the second round—Chan said it was still a commendable finish for all the RP shuttlers.

"Three years ago our players won't even be able to score in this kind of tournament," said Chan of the four-star championships which marked the first time the Philippines was included in the tough International Badminton Federation circuit.

The Asuncions outdid themselves, barging into the finals after sensational victories against Japanese and Indonesian foes, including 2000 Sydney Olympics silver winner Tri Kusharjanto and Minarti Timur.

Their run ended after the Filipinos, the only IBF-ranked players, lost to Thailand's Sudket Prapakamol and Saralee Thoungthongkam, 21-18, 21-16, in the championship match last Sunday.

Still, Chan remained optimistic that the country can sustain its badminton progress as he lined up a string of international exposure for the national team.

Chan said he has selected the young players who will soon take part in tournaments in Singapore, Chinese Taipei, Macau, Vietnam and Malaysia.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Tuesday, May 30, 2006

Kaya nila... Ikaw kaya, kaya mo?
Ultimate Guinness World Records
Tuesday 8:30 PM
ABC Tayo!

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5				National Geographic	V League				Sentro	World's Most Amazing Videos	TNA Impact		Ultimate Guinness World Records		Big News	ALI			
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema			Pasion de Amor	Little Amy	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Outstanding Twins	TV Patrol World		Bituing Walang Ningning	Sa Piling Mo	Pinoy Big Brother	Panday	Wonderful Life	Magmamahal, Kapamilya			Insider
AXN		Lost (Season II)		House		Sports Disaster IV		Beastmaster (Season I)		Pensacola (Season II)		Chasing Death Caught On Tape II		Alias (Season IV)		CSI: NY (Season 2)		Rescue Me	
Cartoon Network	Police Academy	Richie Rich	Tom & Jerry Show	Baby Looney Tunes	Hi Hi Puffy AmiYumi	Codename: Kids Next Door	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Power Rangers Ninja Storm	PokeMon	Yu-Gi-Oh Double Duel		The Simpsons		Mucha Lucha!	Duck Dodgers	Justice League	Samurai Jack
Cinema One		Katorse				Tirad Pass				[illegible]				[illegible]				Pinakamagandang Hayop Sa Balat Ng Lupa	
Cinemax			Paradise Hawaiian Style			A Slight Case Of Murder			The Man Who Wouldn't Die			Torque			Tremors 4: The Legend Begins			Running Cool (11:05PM)	
CNN		Business International		World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		Business International	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	World Sport	World News Asia	World News Asia	Your World Today			
Crime/Suspense		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Profiler		Forensic Files	Body Of Evidence	Law & Order		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit		Surface		Prison Break		Law & Order: Criminal Intent	
Discovery Channel		I Shouldn't Be Alive		Rides		Building Babies		Da Vinci Declassified		Wild Discovery		Hour Asia		[illegible] With Sam Neil		Unsolved History		Crime Stories	
Disney Channel	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/[illegible]	Mickey Mouseworks	Lilo & Stitch	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr. Bean, The Animated Series	That's So Raven	The Rescuers Down Under			Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	Kim Possible	Totally Spies	Cinderella	
ESPN		Pro Billiards '04 Women's Tour of Champs		Pool: Snooker World Pool League '05 Poland		X-Games Files	Table Tennis '05 Killerspin	Extreme Programming Sports Mania		Atlantic Coast Conf. Basketball Georgia Tech Vs N. Carolina				Sportscenter Asia	Pool: Snooker Premier Snooker League '05				Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Insider Weekend	Project Runway		Change of Heart	Elimidate	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	The Tyra Banks Show		One Tree Hill 3		The O.C.3		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
ETC 2nd Avenue		Starting Over		The Maury Povich Show		The Jerry Springer Show		Dr. Phil		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition	The Ellen Show		Wheel Of Fortune	Jeopardy	Blowout 2		NBC Nightly News	The Inside Edition
EWTN	Super Saints	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	ABCatholic	Angel Force	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Mirror Of The Soul	Lord, Have Mercy	Behold the Man: Spirituality for Men	The Journey Home Encore		Daily Mass Live		Holy Land Rosary/ Angelus	The Good Code: The Natural Law	Cenacle Of Divine Mercy	Octava Dies	Web Of Faith	
Fox News		On The Record With Greta Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		Your World With Neil Cavuto		Fox & Friends						Fox News Live					
GMA 7	Agawin Mo Man [illegible] (2:45 PM)	Now and Forever (3:15 PM)	Endless Love 1: Autumn In My Heart By Popular Demand		Saiyuki	Dragonball Z	Gokusen	24 Oras		Extra Challenge	Majika	I Luv NY	Love Of The Condor Heroes	Jewel In The Palace		Bahay Mo Ba 'To			Saksi
Hallmark Channel		McLeod's Daughters IV (3:15 PM)		Back When We Were Grown Ups (4:05 PM)				Bewitched	The Nanny	Judging Amy		Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye II		Judging Amy		Arthur Hailey's Detective			Judging Amy (11:45PM)
HBO		Lover Boy			The Summer Of [illegible] (4:45 PM)				Doorways			Deadwood 23: The Whores Can Come		Deadwood 24: [illegible] The Earth Talks To		Vampires: The Turning (9:55 PM)		Fear (11:15PM)	
Hero TV	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Sorcerer Hunter	Soul Hunters	Lost Universe	Beyblade G-Revolution	Yu-Gi-Oh GX	Naruto	Mirmo de Pon	Inuyasha	Yu-Gi-Oh Duel Monsters	Yakitate! Japan	Mr. Ajikko	D.I.C.E.	Samurai Deeper Kyo	Sorcerer Hunter
IBC 13		EZ Shop				Serbis On The Go	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		Global Family Songs		ME TV		PTA Best Of The Philippines		Global Family Songs [illegible]	IBC News Tonite	Home Shopping Network	
JackTV	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	The Late Show David Letterman		Raw				The Batman	Just For Laughs (Gags)	Mad TV		That 70s Show	Arrested Development	The Late Show David Letterman		The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Comedy Central Presents	South Park	The Man Show
Lifestyle Network	Designer Remix	30 Minute Meals	Wolfgang Puck	Sweet Dreams	Smart Solutions	Sensible Chic	At Home With	Emeril Live		Passion For Dessert	E! News Weekend		Look For Less	Martha		Napa Style	Sheila Bridges Designer Living	Guess Who's Coming To Decorate	
MTV Philippines		Pimp My Ride		Handpicked Pupil	Pop Inc.		MTV Hits (with SMS)	VH1 Presents Britney's Secret Childhood		Get Spotted	Making The Movie: X-Men Final Stand	Summer Sessions: Uniclub in Boracay		TRL		Pimp My Ride		Sessions: Pupil	Jams
MYX		Rock MYX	My MYX	Mellow MYX	Urban MYX	Take 5	MYX Versions	MYX Firsts	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		Top Of The Pops	Radio MYX	MYX News	My MYX	MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic	Wildlife Diary	National Geographic Specials		[illegible]		Wild Orphans	Wildlife Diary	Top 5 - World Cup Crisis	Top 5 - World Cup Crisis	WOW! Snake Killer [illegible]		About Asia		National Geographic Specials		Air Crash Investigation: Helicopter Down		Hunter Hunted: Kodiak Attack	
NBN		Teledyaryo Alas-Tres		Teledyaryo Sports [illegible]			Diyos Ko, Mahal [illegible]	Teledyaryo W/ Rey Langit & Angelique Lazo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)				Teledyaryo Final Edition				Bantay OCW With Susan K	
Nickelodeon	Chalkzone	Hey Arnold!	SpongeBob SquarePants	My Life As A Teenage Robot	All Grown Up	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	Drake & Josh	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	All That	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Four Eyes	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	The Fairly Odd Parents	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Noel Juico 16				[illegible]				Neber 2 Geder				[illegible]				Kulimlim
Qtv	Ikaw Lang Ang Mamahalin		Zipang	Kaleido Star	MMS (My Music Station)				Magic Ring	Irene	Noel	Project 11	Family Zoo		News On Q	[illegible]		Irene	Over The Green Fields
RPN 9						Global Window	RPN Aksyon News	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Boarding House North Shore		Australia's Next Top Model		Paradise Hotel		Newswatch Now	Tuesday Night Thrill		
SBN 21				New Life TV Shopping				Winner TV Shopping		Quantum Global		Oras Ng Himala		[illegible]		SBN Music Video			
Solar Sports					Tennis WTA Estoril Open [illegible]					[illegible] Beach Bum Tour	NBA Action	NBA Playoffs Eastern Conf. Finals Game 4					Solar Sports Desk	Philippine Badminton Open Finals	
Sports Plus						French Open '06 Day 3 [illegible]													
Star Movies	The Truth About Cats And Dogs (2:35 PM)			Anatomy (4:15 PM)				[illegible] (5:50 PM)			Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London			Robocop 2				Robocop 3 (10:55PM)	
Star World	Frasier	The Bold & The Beautiful		General Hospital		Ed		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle	Star News Asia	Seinfeld	Charmed		The O.C.		North Shore		Seinfeld	Charmed
Studio 23	Bewitched	Naruto				Batman Beyond	Monkey Typhoon	Spirits	Pinoy Big Brother	Wazzup Wazzup	Andromeda		Smallville (8:20 PM)	Gilmore Girls (9:10 PM)		News Central	Oprah		Reality World

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Editor Emmie G. Velarde

ENTERTAINMENT

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IC Mendoza, John Prats and Charles Christianson

'Gay na ba kayo?'

AS A MOM (BUT NOT A STAGE MOTHER), I am more than proud that my gay son **IC** is in the cast of "Manay Po." What better vehicle could there be for his "comeback" than a movie that's all about the joys and woes of being homosexual?

The story centers on a mother's (**Cherry Pie Picache**) acceptance of her three gay sons.

"Mother, gay I?"

IC won a Best Child Actor award many years ago. Now, he's no longer a child and has turned into an "actress!" I asked his co-stars **John Prats, Polo Ravales** and **Jiro Manio** (who all play *bading* in the film) what they would be like if they were gay in real life.

John said, " I won't cross-dress but I'll wear a little make-up. I want to be the girl in the relationship, who's pampered and all."

Polo replied, "I want my *papa* to be faithful. I'll make sure I'm a decent and respectable gay."

Jiro confessed, "I'll be the *kikay* type who dresses up like a real woman from head to foot."

Gay *na ba kayo* for "Manay Po" tomorrow?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

Emotionally challenging

AFTER the success of "Dama," GMA Network is bound to continue conquering the hearts of the viewers in the first-ever TV series about the well-loved Pinoy superhero, Captain Barbell. It has a modern and futuristic plot and setting.

Top-billed by **Richard Gutierrez,** who plays the dual role of the mighty Captain Barbell and his alter ego Teng. Richard says his role in "Sugo" was physically demanding but Captain Barbell is emotionally challenging.

"As Teng and Captain Barbell, I'm required to show an extreme range of emotions—from a softie to a toughie."

And who is his true-to-life hero?

"My dad and mom—'cause their support makes the impossible possible for me," Richard says.

Captain Barbell is out to proclaim that every good-hearted Pinoy (just like Richard's folks) is worthy of hero worship.

LJ's presents

I CORNERED **LJ Reyes** and asked, "What *pasalubong* did you bring **Alfred Vargas** and **Mike Tan** from the US?" (She flew to New Jersey recently to renew her green card.) She blushed and said, "I got a Quick Silver jacket for Alfred, chocolates for Mike." I teased her, "So that means Alfred is more special than Mike?" She laughed. "Alfred is on diet so I couldn't give him. chocolates."

Perhaps she already provides the sweetness in Alfred's life. Who needs chocolates, indeed?

GAY NA/ A2-2

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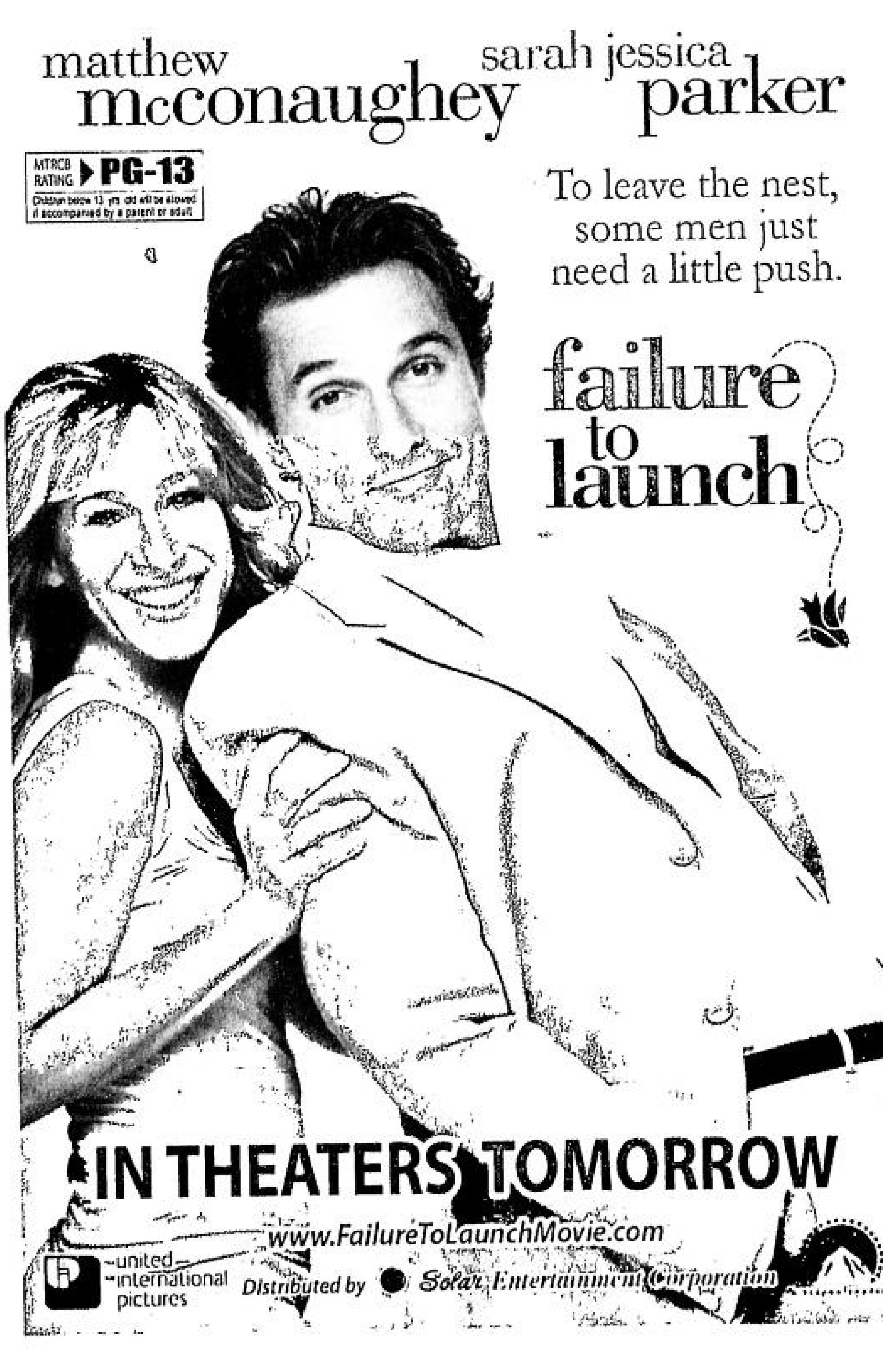

matthew mcconaughey sarah jessica parker
MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13
Children below 13 yrs old will be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.
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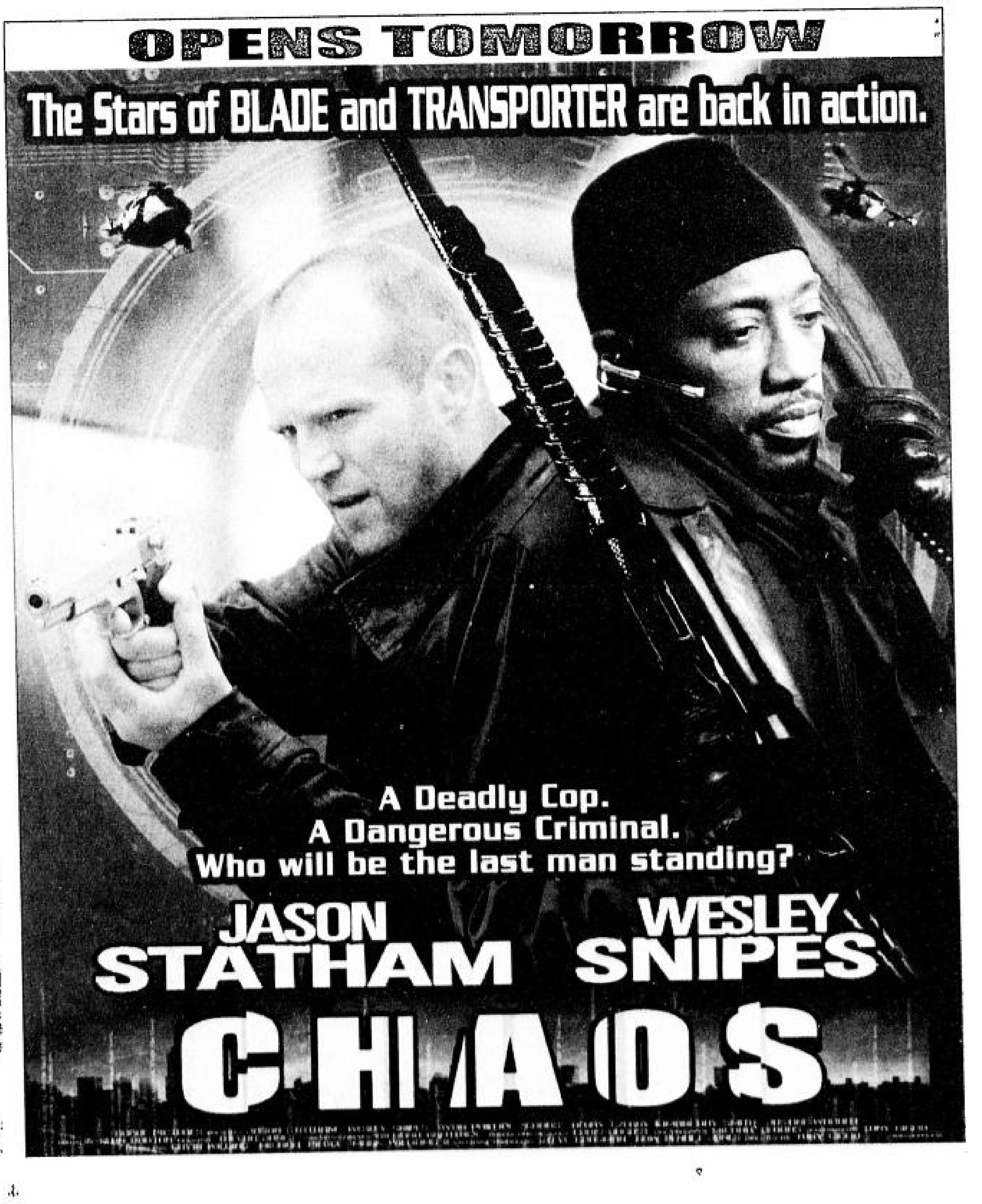

OPENS TOMORROW
The Stars of BLADE and TRANSPORTER are back in action.
A Deadly Cop.
A Dangerous Criminal.
Who will be the last man standing?
JASON STATHAM WESLEY SNIPES
CHAOS

'Gay na ba kayo?'

From page A2-1

BOBBY Yan

Still groping

I EGGED Toni Gonzaga to let me in on the latest between Sam Milby and her. She smiled and said, "There are days when both of us are very talkative and times when we're both quiet. We're still groping, but also enjoying. I keep telling Sam just to go with the flow. He's the type who won't text if I don't text first. *Nakikiramdam siya.* Unlike most Amboys, he's not the aggressive type—which is fine with me."

So what's keeping them from taking their relationship to the next level? Toni said, "I know a lot of girls wanna be Sam's girl. He's definitely boyfriend material but I wanna take it slow."

Slow slow slow but it's a go go go….

Heart jog

JERICHO Rosales and Heart Evangelista were spotted twice jogging in Salcedo Park at around 1 a.m. Maybe the lovers want to avoid gawking passers-by, so they opted to jog at such an ungodly hour. Love and jogging are both good for the heart, anyway.

Rico's bro

I BUMPED into my long-lost friend **Bobby Yan**. I asked about how his love life these days. He said, "I swear by my brother Rico's grave that I have no girlfriend now." How emphatic! Hopefully Rico can help Bobby's heart come to life again.

Where's the prize?

POOR Frenchie Dy! She won "Star in A Million" two years ago. But what's this I heard that, to this day, she has not received her prizes yet (recording contract and a house)? Worse, she was booted from "ASAP"! Did the donors and production people do a "French leave" on Frenchie?

Music maverick

MUSIC Maverick Ricky Ilacad is the new presi-

GAY NA/ A2-4

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CINEMA 5 X-MEN III 10:30 , 12:50,3:10, 5:30 , 7:50 , 10:10 PG13
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TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS
EVERY MONDAY | DANCE NIGHT | 7:00PM
JUNE 2&3 ,2006 | WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" | 8:00PM
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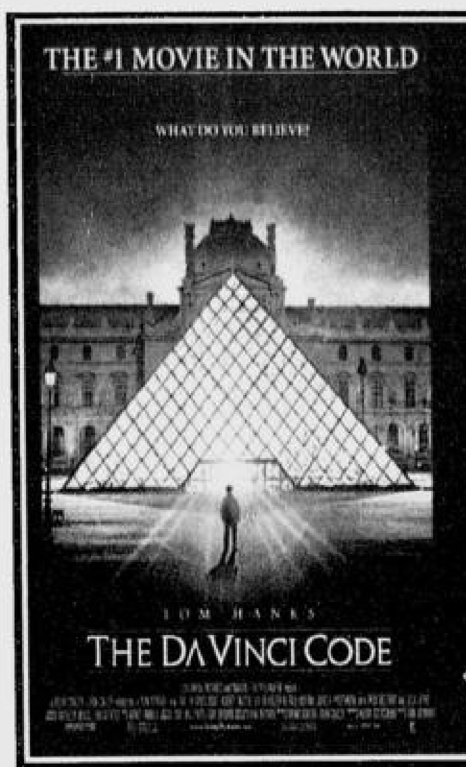

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3 (DOLBY) DA VINCI CODE R18
4 (DOLBY) OVER THE HEDGE GP
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3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 GOLD (DTS) X - MEN - 3
5 GOLD (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
6 GOLD (SDDS) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
7 GOLD (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
8 OVER THE HEDGE
9 POSEIDON
10 THE DA VINCI CODE

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4 (DOLBY) OVER THE HEDGE / THE DA VINCI CODE

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3 (DTS) THE DA VINCI CODE
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3 (DOLBY) SLITHER
Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 SLITHER
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
4 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
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1 X - MEN - 3
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 (DOLBY) MISSION IMPOSSIBLE-3
Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Gapan)
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2 THE DA VINCI CODE

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1 X - MEN - 3
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4 THE DA VINCI CODE

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2 (DOLBY) OVER THE HEDGE
3 (DOLBY) X - MEN - 3
4 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE

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3 X - MEN - 3
4 POSEIDON

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2 X - MEN - 3
3 OVER THE HEDGE

Lianas Cinema (Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 SILENT HILL
2 POSEIDON
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1 (SDDS) THE DA VINCI CODE
2 SAYO ANG SARAP
3 VISIBLE SECRET -2
4 (DTS) SILENT HILL
Lianas MovieCity (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 (DOLBY) THE DA VINCI CODE
2 HIRAM
3 (DTS) X - MEN - 3
4 POSEIDON
5 MISSION IMPOSIBLE-3

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2 X - MEN - 3

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4 POSEIDON

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2 POSEIDON

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1 POSEIDON
2 KARELASYON

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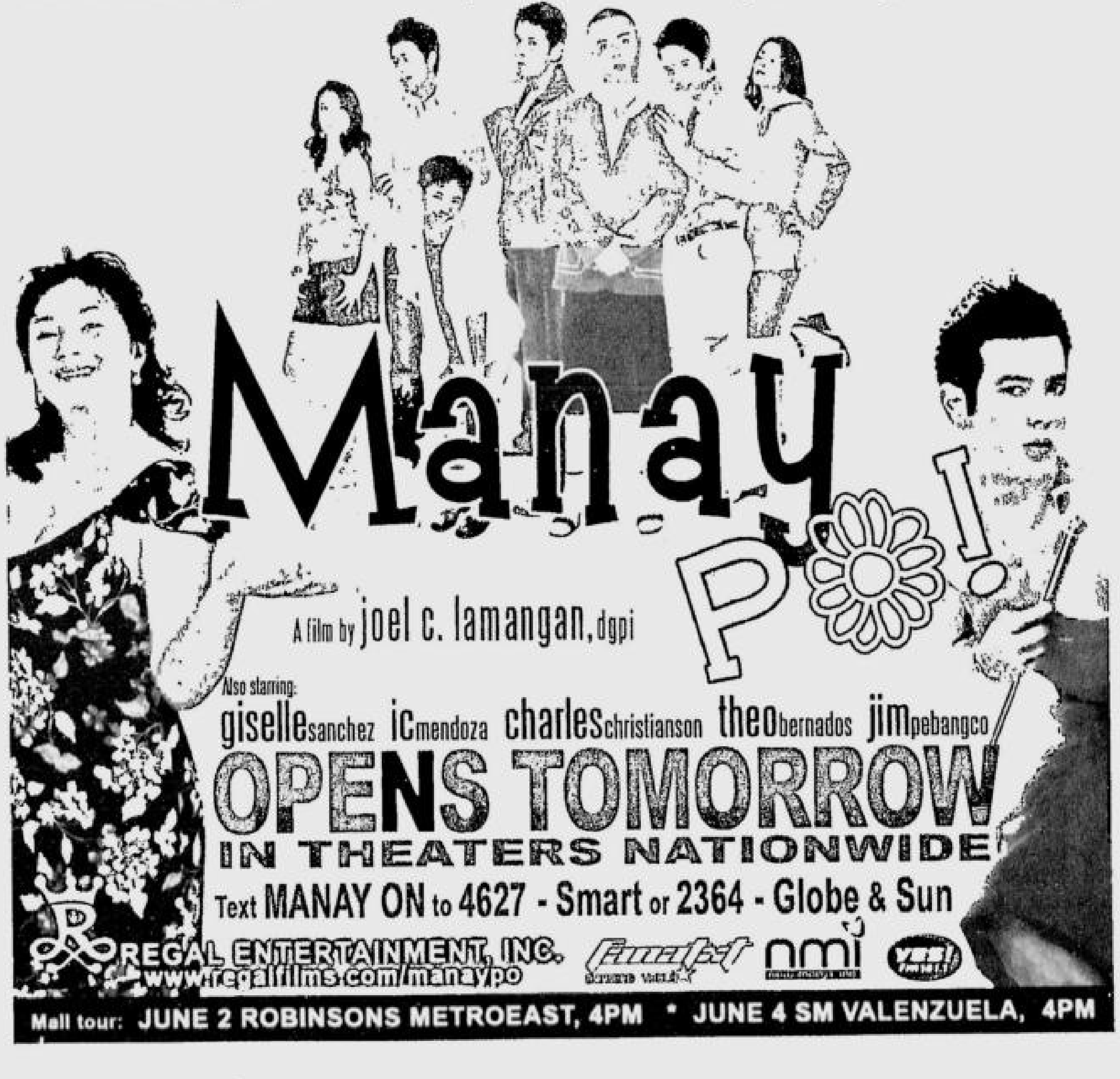

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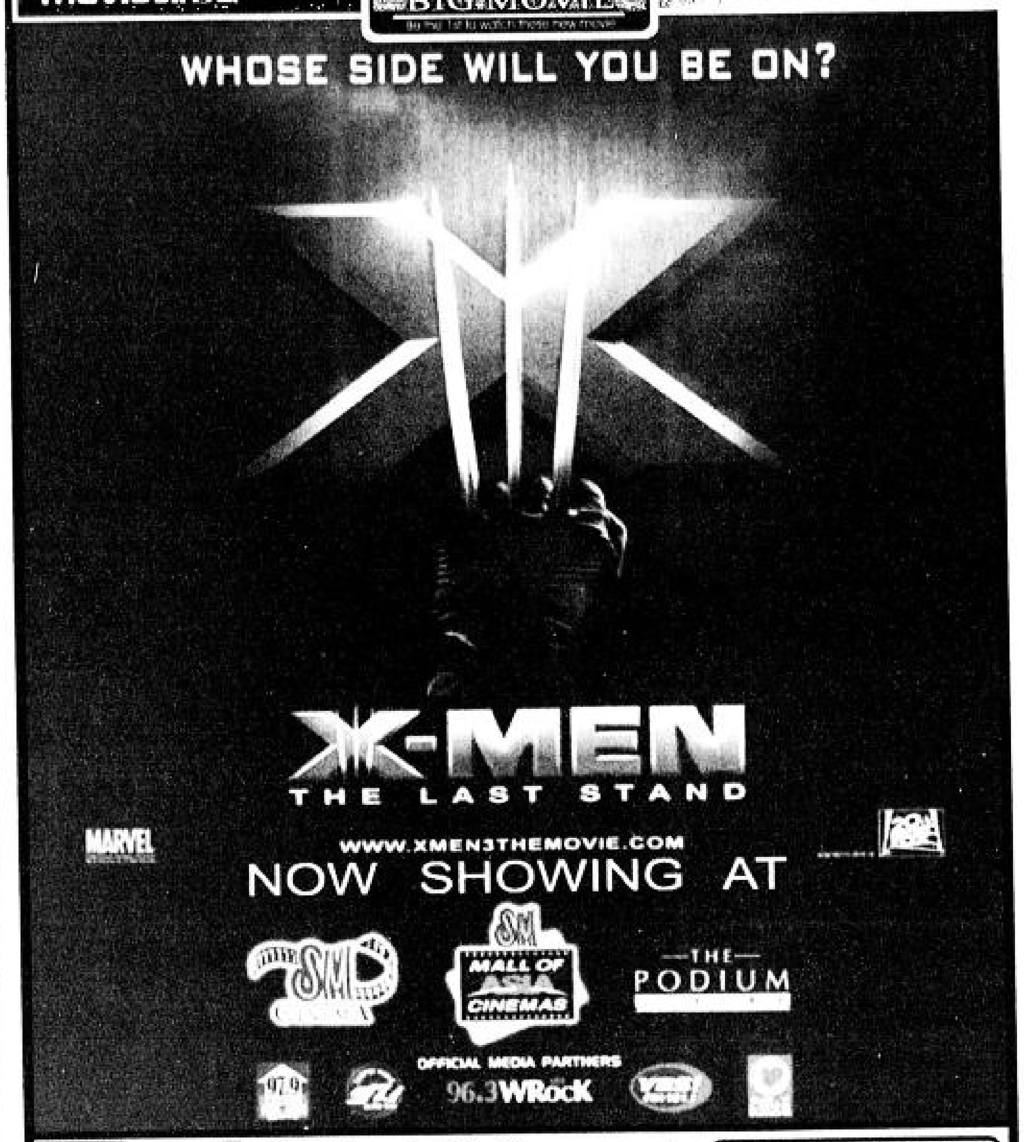

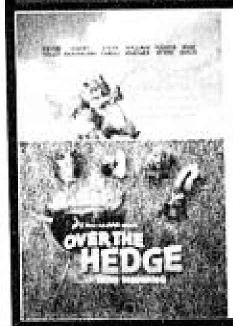

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CINEMA 1

XMEN III

CINEMA 2

XMEN III

SM NORTH EDSA

XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON
XMEN III
SILENT HILL
OVER THE HEDGE
XMEN III
M:I:III

SM CITY BICUTAN

XMEN III
M:I:III
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON

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SILENT HILL
XMEN III
XMEN III
REINCARNATION
M:I:III
AQUAMARINE
SENTINEL
POSEIDON
XMEN III
THE WILD
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS

SM CITY SOUTHMALL

XMEN III
M:I:III
XMEN III
XMEN III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
REINCARNATION
OVER THE HEDGE
AQUAMARINE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW

AQUAMARINE
PAMAHIIN
XMEN III
XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON
XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE
XMEN III
SILENT HILL
REINCARNATION
D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY DASMARINAS

XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON
M:I:III

SM CITY STA. MESA

XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE
M:I:III
POSEIDON
XMEN III
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
AQUAMARINE
REINCARNATION
SILENT HILL
SENTINEL

SM CITY MANILA

XMEN III
M:I:III
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POSEIDON
XMEN III
PAMAHIIN
OVER THE HEDGE
SILENT HILL
REINCARNATION
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY SAN LAZARO

XMEN III
XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
M:I:III

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA

XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE
POSEIDON
M:I:III

SM CITY SUCAT

POSEIDON
XMEN III
XMEN III
M:I:III

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M:I:III
XMEN III

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PAMAHIIN
SILENT HILL
XMEN III
M:I:III
XMEN III
POSEIDON
OVER THE HEDGE
XMEN III

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS

M:I:III
XMEN III
POSEIDON
OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY LUCENA

POSEIDON
M:I:III
CHINESE TALL STORY
XMEN III

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XMEN III
XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
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SM CITY PAMPANGA

XMEN III
XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON
OVER THE HEDGE
M:I:III

SM CITY MOLINO

OVER THE HEDGE
XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON

SM CITY STA. ROSA

POSEIDON
M:I:III
XMEN III
OVER THE HEDGE

SM CITY CEBU

XMEN III
XMEN III
M:I:III
OVER THE HEDGE
REINCARNATION
POSEIDON
M:I:III
XMEN III

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XMEN III
M:I:III
POSEIDON
XMEN III
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AQUAMARINE

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XMEN III
REINCARNATION
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M:I:III
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 X-MEN 3 • THX	12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30
2 X-MEN 3	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00
4 THE DA VINCI CODE	12:00 3:10 6:20 9:30
5 X-MEN 3	11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
6 THE DA VINCI CODE	12:30 3:40 6:50 10:00
7 POSEIDON	12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10.00
8 OVER THE HEDGE	11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
9 THE DA VINCI CODE	12:15 3:25 6:35 9.45
10 THE DA VINCI CODE	11:45 2:55 6:05 9:15

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 X-MEN 3	10:30 12:50 3:10 5:30 7:50 10:00
2 POSEIDON	12.00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00
3 SLITHER	12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
4 X-MEN 3	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:00
5 X-MEN 3	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:40 9:00
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	10:50 1:35 4:20 7:05 9.50
7 OVER THE HEDGE	10:20 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	11:20 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:15
2 X-MEN 3	12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30
3 POSEIDON X-MEN 3	1:00 3:00 5:00 7:30
4 THE DA VINCI CODE	12:00 3:00 6:00 9.00
5 OVER THE HEDGE	11:50 2:10 4:30 6:50 9:10
6 X-MEN 3	1:50 4:10 6:30
7 X-MEN 3	11:30 1:50 4:10 6:30 9:00
8 THE DA VINCI CODE	11:00 2:00 5:00 8:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 POSEIDON
2 X-MEN 3
3 THE DA VINCI CODE
4 X-MEN 3
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 OVER THE HEDGE

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575

1 X-MEN 3
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

PIONEER 687-5378

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 X-MEN 3
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 THE DA VINCI CODE

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1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 X-MEN 3

LIPA (043) 757-3664 (043) 312-5870

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 X-MEN 3
5 X-MEN 3

DASMARIÑAS (046) 852-2126 (046) 416-4332

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 X-MEN 3
4 OVER THE HEDGE

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 X-MEN 3

IMUS (046) 875-3838 (046) 471-8188

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
4 OVER THE HEDGE
5 X-MEN 3
6 X-MEN 3

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5270

1 THE DA VINCI CODE
2 THE DA VINCI CODE
3 POSEIDON
4 OVER THE HEDGE
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 / X-MEN 3
6 X-MEN 3

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459

1 X-MEN 3
2 X-MEN 3 / POSEIDON
3 THE DA VINCI CODE / M.I. 3
4 THE SENTINEL
5 THE DA VINCI CODE
6 SILENT HILL

ILOILO (033) 336-8070

1 X-MEN 3
2 AQUAMARINE
3 OVER THE HEDGE
4 X-MEN 3
5 SUBMERGED / THE DA VINCI CODE
6 THE DA VINCI CODE

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‘Gay na ba kayo?’

From page A2-2

dent of MCA Music Philippines. He played a key role in the Philippine success of top international artists like **Madonna, Michael Buble, Josh Groban** and many more. He was also instrumental in the rise of local talents such as **Nina, Kitchie Nadal** and **Christian Bautista.**

Harry Hui, president of Universal Music South East Asia, says, “I can't think of a better-qualified music man than Ricky to take MCA Phil forward into a new era. He is a true pioneer in the field, having worked in Warner, Sony, BMG and EMI through the years.”

SAM Milby

Lips don't lie

CATCH the Sexbomb Girls on their grand fans' day presentation, “Lips Don't Lie,” tomorrow, 5 p.m., at the UP Theater Diliman in Quezon City. Joining them are **Aiza Seguerra, KC Montero, Kier Legaspi** and a lot of other stars.

Personal

MUCHISSIMAS gracias to Enchanted Kingdom's Sir **Mon, Dennis Cruz** and my cool friend **Mike Crisologo**. It's not only the magic of EK that stays with me but your kindness as well.

(E-Mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com)

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OVER THE HEDGE
1:00 / 3:00 / 5:00 / 7:00 / 9:00
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

X-MEN 3
12:05 / 12:40 / 1:15
1:50 / 2:25 / 3:00 / 3:35
4:10 / 4:45 / 5:20 / 5:55
6:30 / 7:05 / 7:40 / 8:15
8:50 / 9:25 / 10:00

THE DA VINCI CODE
12:00 / 1:00 / 2:00
3:00 / 4:00 / 5:00 / 6:00
7:00 / 8:00 / 9:00 / 10:00

Globe PLATINUM CINEMA
THE DA VINCI CODE
12:00 / 3:00 / 6:00 / 9:00

ALIMALL CINEMAS
X-MEN 3
12:15 / 2:25 / 4:35 / 6:45 / 8:55
OVER THE HEDGE
12:00 / 2:00 / 4:00 / 6:00 / 8:00
THE DA VINCI CODE
12:05 / 3:00 / 5:55 / 8:50
POSEIDON
12:10 / 2:15 / 4:20 / 6:25 / 8:30
MISSION IMPOSSIBLE: 3
12:15 / 2:55 / 5:35 / 8:15
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For ticket inquiries, please call TicketNet at 911-5555 or log on to www.ticketnet.com.ph

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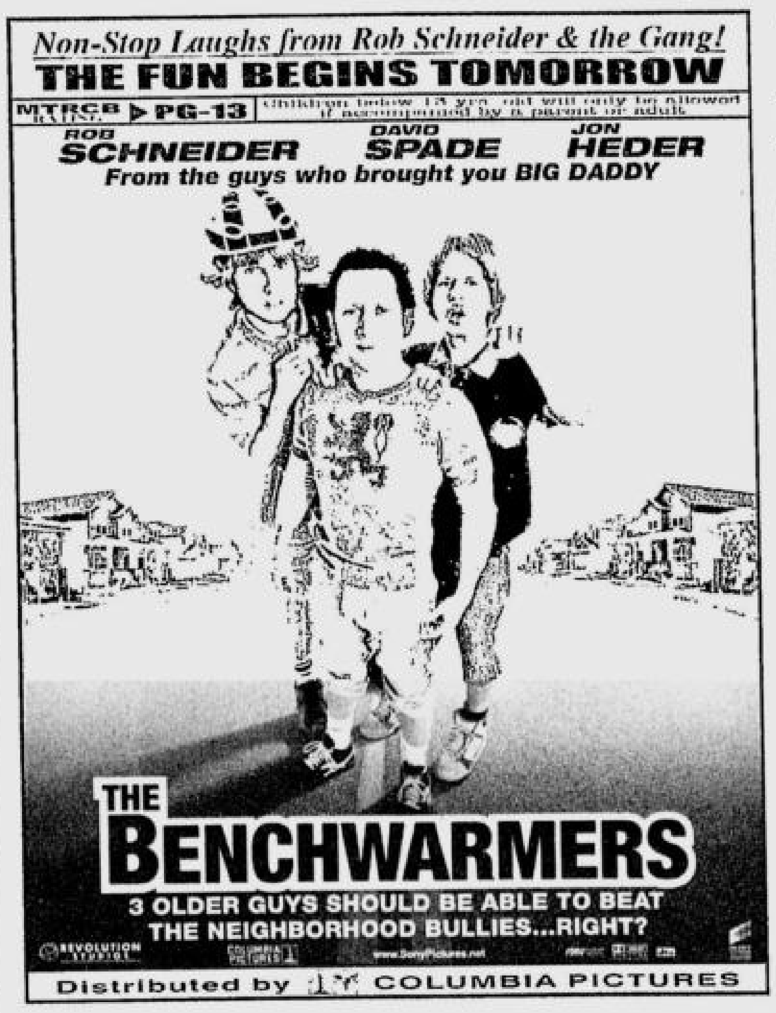

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3 OLDER GUYS SHOULD BE ABLE TO BEAT THE NEIGHBORHOOD BULLIES...RIGHT?
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SHANG CINEPLEX
① X-MEN 3
MTRCB PG-13
1:10 3:30, 5.50, 8:10, 10:30
② X-MEN 3
MTRCB PG-13
11.40, 2.00, 4:20, 6.40, 9.00
③ THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB R-18
1 20, 4.25, 7.30, 10.35
④ OVER THE HEDGE
MTRCB GP
12.40, 3.00, 5.20, 7:40, 10:10
PREMIERE THEATRE THE DA VINCI CODE
MTRCB R-18 11.45, 2 50, 5 55, 9 00
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THE DA VINCI CODE R18 3:15,6:15,9:15	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 1:45,4:05,6:25,8:45	THE DA VINCI CODE R18 1:15,4:15,7:15,10:15
X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	OVER THE HEDGE G 2:00,4:00,6:00,8:00	X-MEN: THE LAST STAND PG13 1:10,3:30,5:50,8:10,10:30

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1	X-MEN 3 11:20, 1:40, 4:20, 7:10, 9:50 PG-13
2	X-MEN 3 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 8:10, 10:50 PG-13
3	THE DA VINCI CODE 12:30, 3:50, 7:15, 10:40 R-18
4	OVER THE HEDGE 11:20, 1:40, 3:50 GP THE DA VINCI CODE 6:00, 9:30 R-18

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! Ayala Malls

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G1 GLORIETTA 1	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 THE DA VINCI CODE	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND			
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	3 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND GUARANTEED SEATS	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	5 OVER THE HEDGE	6 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	7 THE DA VINCI CODE
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE DA VINCI CODE	2 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND					
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:10, 4:30, 6:50, 9:10, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DA VINCI CODE 1:00, 3:20, 5:40, 8:00, 10:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	3 OVER THE HEDGE 1:30, 3.30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND 2:30, 5:30, 8.30, 11:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 OVER THE HEDGE	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	4 OVER THE HEDGE			
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND	2 THE DA VINCI CODE	3 OVER THE HEDGE	4 THE DA VINCI CODE	5 X-MEN: THE LAST STAND		

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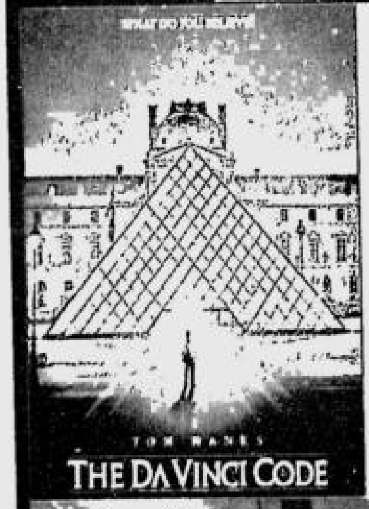

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PETRON

Japan lifts freeze on ₱4B in grants, loans

Pledges up to $800M in new yen credits

By Michael Lim Ubac

THE JAPANESE GOVERNMENT has lifted the freeze on some P4 billion in grants and yen loans after holding their release since 2001 due to a row on the non-payment of Japanese contractors doing business in the Philippines.

This was reported by House Speaker Jose de Venecia, who flew back to Manila from Tokyo late yesterday, who said Japan has likewise agreed to provide an additional $600-$800 million in fresh loans intended for poverty-alleviation programs and infrastructure projects.

In a telephone call before leaving Japan, De Venecia described as "highly successful" his meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi on Monday, capping his six-day official visit.

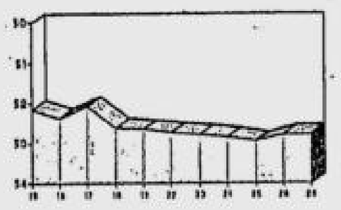
De Venecia was accompanied by spouse Gina, Deputy Speaker for Visayas Raul del Mar and Representatives Junie Cua, Jack Duavit and Antonio Diaz. Besides Tokyo, they also visited the cities of Kyoto, Nara and Nagoya.

He said Japanese Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki informed him last Thurs-

JAPAN/ B2

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



MAY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱ 52.78 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2006

¥ 112.31 = $1

As of 5 p.m., May 29, 2006

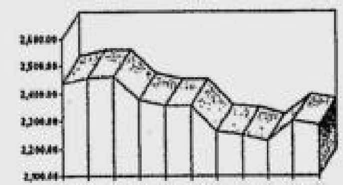
GOLD: $647.30-647.80

per ounce Hong Kong, May 29, 2006

STOCK MARKET

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX

MAY



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Stocks down on interest rate fears

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.76-percent lower yesterday, slipping back after sharp gains on Friday on concerns the central bank may raise key interest rates later this week, dealers said.

STOCKS/ B2

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

Average entry wage rates for medical workers

As of the latest occupational wages survey, the average minimum entry wage rate for medical practitioners is P3,290, inclusive of basic pay and regular cash allowances.

	MIN	MAX
Dentists	P5,942	P18,600
Doctors	P3,000	P52,167
Midwives	P3,000	P15,700
Nutritionists-Dieticians	P2,800	P19,562
Nurses	P2,500	P16,800
Medical Technologists	P2,500	P15,700

Source: Occupational Wages Survey, June 2004, Bureau of Labor and Employment Statistics
Kate Pedroso PDI Research

Digitel sees profit in 2007

By Abigail L. Ho

GOKONGWEI-LED DIGITAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS Philippines Inc. (Digitel) expects to post a profit next year after suffering losses these past years due mainly to the rollout of its cellular network.

In an interview on the sidelines of yesterday's stockholders' meeting, Digitel vice chair James Go expressed confidence that "increased subscriber base because of our good network, good coverage, good service" would bring the company in the black by 2007.

The company had already showed signs of recovery, posting a net income of P43.2 million in the first quarter—a reversal of the P451.3-million loss it registered in the same period last year. Since 2002, Digitel had been in the red, with losses reaching almost P2.1 billion in 2004.

WB URGES DEV'T COUNTRIES

'Get tough on corruption'

By Doris C. Dumlao

TOKYO—CORRUPTION IS SEEN gnawing on the building blocks of infrastructure especially in poor countries, but in a world where public sector intervention is still necessary, top development planners present an urgent case for higher policy accountability and transparency.

At the opening of the two-day Annual Bank Conference on Development Economics (ABCDE) organized by the World Bank and Japan's Ministry of Finance, concerns about corruption, its consequences and possible remedies were discussed lengthily during the sessions at the Mita Conference Hall here.

In his opening speech, World Bank group president Paul Wolfowitz urged about a thousand ABCDE participants—consisting of policy-makers, economists, academicians as well as representatives from business, media and civil society—to "get tough and stay tough on corruption."

"This requires vigilance not only on bank-financed projects, where our fiduciary responsibility to shareholders demands high accountability, but also in broader country and global environments in which we operate," Wolfowitz said.

"Ordinary people will not fully benefit from new infrastructure projects such as roads if, as in the case of certain projects in Asia, the improved access is accompanied by informal levies or charges that raise transportation costs back to previous levels," he said.

In his own opening address, Finance Minister Sadakazu Tanigaki reminisced that during the 1990s, it was the prevailing thought that private capital should be a main source of infrastructure investments even in developing countries.

"However, the necessity of public sector involvement has been recognized again, and it became necessary to further develop the concept of pub-

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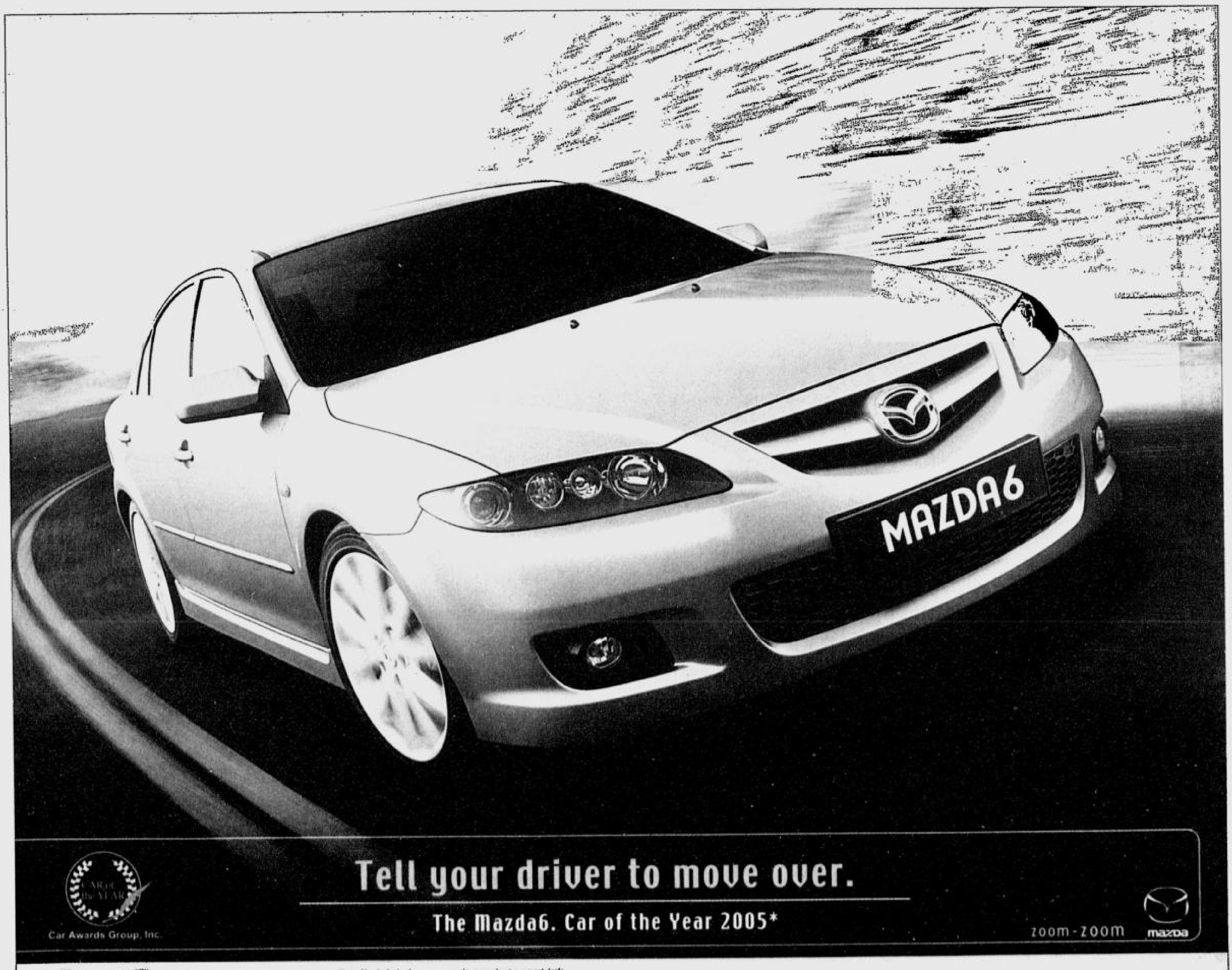
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*As awarded by Car Awards Group Inc.

Foreign investors quit submerging markets

IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING why there was no article last week, we were moving house. It was totally unexpected because we had been living there for eight years but the town hall suddenly decided that our narrow street needed widening.

We studied the plans and if we had stayed, then within three months there would have been two jeepneys and three tricycles passing through our living room every 30 seconds. My wife seemed somewhat disconcerted about this so we decided to move out.

In recent months, the place had become infested with termites. The fact that it was the end of my daughter's term-mite have accelerated the process. Also there were lots of *ipis* in the kitchen and I was unable to find the *ipis*-center.

Too mean to call Lipat Bahay, my wife loaded the furniture on my ethanol-powered amphibious tricycle. It took many journeys to complete the move and my tricycle broke down under the strain. Fortunately, I was able to exchange it for a solar-powered hang glider but it doesn't work at night.

Determined to prevent a recurrence, we pitched our tent in a large field in Camp Crame. It is only used for target practice so we should not be disturbed too much. The only problem is the midday heat. It is in tents.

Congratulations to the three Filipinos who reached the summit of the world's highest mountain, whereupon they had to 'ave-a-rest. On reaching the peak, they found a note in Tagalog saying, "You have now reached level 1. If you can make it up to level 10, you will find the budget deficit."

A broker carrying mining certificates, and a dozen rolls of toilet paper, got stuck in a revolving door and got wiped out.

* * *

It has been a brutal three weeks since I sent out my SELL signal in the INQUIRER and my newsletter. During this period, the market fell 373 points, virtually non-stop. The main reason was a decision by overseas fund managers to sell massive amounts of stocks in all emerging markets.

The Indian Sensitive index dropped 10 percent in a day before trading was halted and in three days, $914 million worth of securities were sold. In South Korea, $1.54 billion of securities were sold in a week. There was a one-day fall of 6 percent in Russia, 4 percent in Mexico and 2-3 percent falls daily in practically every Asian market.

They decided that it was time to get out of risky investments and back to the safety of US treasury bonds so we had a global meltdown. Starting in Japan, Russia, Mexico and China, the tsunami finally reached the Philippines on Wednesday when the Phisix tumbled 94 points. By this time, the risk factor had declined from 100 to only 4. The next day, the index fell another 23 points to 2,229 and the risk factor was down to 1.

At that point, I wrote that the fall had completely erased the previous rise and that we were back to the support level. I told readers to wait for the market to stabilize and the next morning, it opened strongly. In technical terms, the bottom spiked up, a comparatively rare occurrence. It is more normal for the market to consolidate after such a loss of confidence but there were special factors at work.

The banks have been selling about P300 billion of peso-denominated unit trusts to investors. They bought the underlying 5- to 10-year bonds, when prices were low and yields were high. So initially, as yields declined, prices went up, giving investors a return well into double digits. About a month ago, I wrote in my newsletter that interest rates had hit the bottom of the cycle and that holders of long-dated bonds should

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

sell and take their profits.

The very next day, BSP Governor Tetangco made an almost identical observation and since then, bonds have been falling day by day. Eventually, investors redeemed sizeable amounts and the banks were forced to sell stocks to raise cash. This caused the final dramatic sell off. If the selling has now ended, we should see some recovery but I do not for see a return to the previous high of 2,202 any time soon.

The dramatic fall in commodities such as copper and gold caused extraordinary volatility in mining shares. Analysts are divided as to what will happen next. Some feel that the commodity "bubble" has burst while others, including me, feel that while the correction might not have ended, there will ultimately be a recovery so long as China maintains its 10-percent growth rate. There is an imbalance of demand and supply, a situation that cannot be readily remedied.

While nearly all the metals are industrial, gold is in a different category. Its use in dentistry and medicine is negligible; it is basically in demand as jewelry by India, China, France and Arabic countries. The latter group wants to protect themselves against a declining dollar: And in times of inflation or uncertainty, gold is the safe haven of choice.

The US is growing at 5.3 percent, an extremely high rate for the world's largest economy. There are some signs of inflation and this might worsen after the passing of a bill to allow illegal immigrants to obtain legal status. Business has welcomed the flood of Mexicans as they work for sub-minimum wages and have no security or welfare benefits. Once they become legal US citizens, their employers will either prune the workforce or pay them the minimum rate plus benefits, which will increase the hourly pay rate.

Japan, the world's second-biggest economy, has had six consecutive months of rising consumer spending and has officially declared the seven-year recession over. With India growing at 7.3 percent and Europe recovering, I do not see a global recession.

In the United States, earnings have grown at double-digit rates for 11 consecutive quarters but are now expected to slow to 8 or 9 percent for the rest of the year. This may not be sufficient to maintain some of the higher Price/Earnings ratios. Coupled with fears of further rate hikes, Wall Street may have a listless summer.

Our own economy is disappointing. The BIR, which accounts for 70 percent of the nation's revenue, has fallen short of its target by P7.7 billion to date and the government is willing to subsidize further oil price increases up to P5 billion. In order to keep the deficit on target, the government had no option but to cut spending on infrastructure. This is bad for the economy and Fitch Ratings stated that out of 96 countries, our rate-of-revenue to GDP was one from the bottom. They saw no likelihood of an update in the near future and their lengthy statement, published last Saturday, is critical of the way that tax is collected.

The Treasury will probably reject all bids next month as the government has plenty of cash and will not want to pay the higher rates that the banks will demand. Our exports have been steadily declining over the past six years and now represent less than 2 percent of the Asian region. *mrbearbull2hotmail.com*

Debt default won't affect Steniel plan

STENIEL MANUFACTURING Corp. yesterday said the recent announcement of its creditor banks that the paper products maker was in default of P690 million in debts would not hamper the proposed management buyout of the firm.

Steniel president Genesis Goldi D. Golingan said that Steniel is set to meet with banks to propose a business plan and ways to repay its debts.

In a separate disclosure yesterday, Steniel said that management decided to extend an offer of its own to its parent firm Steniel (Belgium) Holdings NV in order to stave off growing uncertainty within the company.

Creditor banks led by Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co., Chinatrust Commercial Bank and Bank of the Philippine Islands last week declared Steniel in default of debts worth at least P690 million. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

Traders get 2-month reprieve

LOCAL EXPORTERS ONLY HAVE two months before they get to feel the brunt of the Customs Broker Law—a measure they claim that is bound to wipe them out.

Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., president of the Philippine Exporters Confederation, said small exporters have been processing on their own their export papers at no added cost to government.

But with the full implementation of the law, that may all change for the exporters will be required to use customs brokers.

The owners of mostly small enterprises will continue to press for changes to the law before it takes effect on July 21.

Ortiz-Luis said that if exporters were to have their way, they would want the BOC to leave them alone since the processing of export documents was revenue neutral and did not need the services of licensed brokers.

"The requirement creates a new layer of red tape because of the need to get the signature of customs brokers for every export shipment," he said. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

Mark my world

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

SAY WHAT YOU WILL ABOUT the man, but that most famous *balikbayan* of them all—the man who reinvented himself as Mark Jimenez—did not have to do it.

He had no obligation whatsoever to the victims of the education plan companies in trouble. Yet he reportedly gave P50 million to the families of PPI plan holders.

Precisely, the obligation should go to the stockholders of such companies as Pacific Plans Inc. (PPI).

And PPI, mind you, is part of the multibillion-peso conglomerate of taipan Alfonso Yuchengco, the founder of the bank RCBC.

At least, Jimenez can pay for the school expenses of the poorest of the 34,000 kids of the PPI plan holders for this school year.

But how the same families can raise the money next year, is still anybody's guess at this point. Hopefully, other Jimenezes will come out. Hopefully!

* * *

Reports moreover said that Jimenez even shouldered the P340,000 in bail bonds for the officials of the so-called Parents Enabling Parents (PEP) Coalition.

That's the noisy group of PPI plan holders, demanding that the Yuchengco conglomerate pay for all the school expenses of the PPI plan holders, no matter how high the tuition may get now and in the future.

They argue, perhaps correctly, that the Yuchengco group has a moral, if not legal, obligation to the public.

Recently, however, the Yuchengco group sued officials of the PEP Coalition for libel. Thus they needed to post bail bonds amounting to P340,000 for all of them.

And so the poor guys, instead of getting the money from the Yuchengco conglomerate for school expenses this year, had to raise money to stay out of jail.

What do we have here? At first, the plan holders gave their money to PPI in return for a promise. You know—PPI would send their kids to school no matter what!

That promise has never been fulfilled. What's more, as a treat to the plan holders who dared to speak up, they must now face court cases. Nice!

How about working on a settlement fair to both sides please?

* * *

There are those in business who may sneer at the gesture of Jimenez. After all, the man reaped a lot of flak for unsavory business tactics during the time of the man named Band …Wrist Band.

The former congressman was said to have been a trusted (perhaps even the TOP) deal maker of Wrist Band during his short two-year term. He was said to have made a pile at that time.

And so this time what in the world did Mark Jimenez expect to gain, financially or what not, from helping those poor plan holders?

Alright—it could be publicity!

The former congressman already made waves in media about his extradition case to the United States, sponsored by no less than this cute administration of Gloriaetta.

Supposedly, as this cute administration argued then, Jimenez had to serve the prison term for his crime of donating too much money to US politicians.

And so if he really loves giving away money, maybe he thought that he may as well give it to those desperate owners of useless education plans. And that's bad?

* * *

If, based on the Palace media blitz, BIR Commissioner Jose Mario Buñag is on the way out, allegedly for the BIR's failure to hit its collection target for a month—for a freaking ONE SINGLE month—then who will take his place?

Lately, the boys of Gloriaetta are beside themselves trying to smear Buñag.

The man, after all, only happens to be the only BIR chief who, being a tax expert in his private law practice, is a member of the prestigious Tax Management Association of the Philippines.

All the other commissioners were just collectors, period.

Now, word goes around that this cute administration plans to use the BIR position as payment for some political debts.

One of the "candidates," apparently, is former Bureau of Customs employee Jun Santiago, the husband of Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago, the aunt of one of the Palace boys of Gloriaetta, none other than Secretary Michael Defensor, who has been moving from one position to another in the past four years.

Jun Santiago, among other things, is famous for a game called "sabong."

His knowledge about and experience in taxation may nevertheless be comparable to his fighting cocks.

* * *

All right, with its finances in disarray, this cute administration wants to raise more revenues. Please don't look at us down here in my *barangay*.

For one, during the time of Wrist Band, the BIR filed charges of tax evasion against an insurance tycoon.

Supposedly, the company of the tycoon did not remit to the BIR documentary stamp tax worth at least P800 million.

Again, that's P800 million. In another place and time, that's enough to send the tycoon to jail for a mighty long time.

So what happened to the court case—buried and forgotten?

Japan lifts freeze on ₱4B in grants, loans

From page B1

day in a brief meeting that "the way is now open for the restoration" of the grants and the commercial yen loan packages following the Philippine government's settlement of some P70 million due to Japanese companies.

The delegation also had a 30-minute meeting last Friday with Kyosuke Shinozawa, governor of the Japan Bank for International Cooperation, source of the yen packages that had been suspended since 2001.

De Venecia said the restoration of the annual yen packages would be major sources of capital funds for the Philippines as these had 30-40 years' repayment at less than 1-percent interest a year.

The yen loans could fund "massive infrastructure building and development and various Philippine anti-poverty programs leading to the creation of thousands of jobs," he said.

The delegation has had a full schedule, including bilateral meetings with Speaker Yohei Kono at the Japanese Diet (Parliament) and the Japan-Philippines Parliamentarians Friendship League.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of May 29, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.5	5.7	5.5	5.7	17,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36.5	36	36.5	29,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	54.5	54.5	52	52	1,057,300
China Banking Corp.	885	885	875	875	1,350
Citystate Savings Bank	20.25	20.25	20.25	20.25	300
Export and Ind. Bank A	0.43	0.43	0.41	0.42	2,410,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	71	72.5	71	72.5	299,800
International Exch. Bank	40.5	41	40.5	41	40,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	36.5	36.5	35.5	36	1,251,300
Phil. Bank of Comm. A	57	59	57	59	600
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	15.5	15.5	15.25	15.25	25,000
Security Bank Corp.	49.5	50	49	49.5	420,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	45	47.5	45	46.5	14,800
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
First Metro Invest. Corp.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1900	1900	1900	1900	150
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.98	0.98	0.98	0.98	130,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	210	210	210	210	200
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2090	2100	2090	2100	420
Ivantage Corp.	1.28	1.28	1.24	1.26	1,225,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Gen Corp.	48	48.5	48	48	488,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	46	46	45	45	85,100
Manila Electric Co. A	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.5	10,900
Manila Electric Co. B	21	21	21	21	60,000
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.8	6.9	6,014,000
Petron Corp.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.4	2,022,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.25	3.25	3.25	3.25	30,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23	23.25	68,300
Jollibee Foods Corp.	36.5	36.5	34.5	34.5	405,800
Pancake House Inc.	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	30,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	2.85	3	2.85	2.95	1,340,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	64	63	64	165,300
San Miguel Corp. B	76	76	72	72	419,300
Universal Robina Corp.	19.25	19.25	19	19	1,521,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.24	0.24	0.21	0.21	2,720,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.3	0.32	0.29	0.32	1,070,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.28	1.28	3,883,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.65	4.45	4.65	735,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	2.6	2.6	2.55	2.55	15,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0925	0.095	0.0925	0.0925	2,800,000
Steniel Manufacturing	0.36	0.36	0.31	0.31	2,450,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	407.5	407.5	405	407.5	432,780
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	5.4	5.5	5.4	5.4	180,000
A. Soriano Corp.	3.15	3.3	3.15	3.25	1,113,000
APC Group Inc.	0.225	0.225	0.225	0.225	800,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	25,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	500,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	1.38	1.4	1.38	1.4	31,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.6	9.6	4,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.12	1.12	1.1	1.1	3,205,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.9	3.9	3.85	3.9	542,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	3.2	3.3	3.1	3.15	830,000
Medco Holdings	0.195	0.195	0.195	0.195	20,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	50,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.14	0.14	0.135	0.135	660,000
SM Investments Corp.	219	224	219	224	97,650
Seafront Resources Corp.	0.71	0.72	0.71	0.72	90,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	400,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	12.75	12.75	12.5	12.5	4,949,500
Belle Corp.	1.16	1.16	1.12	1.16	2,513,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.26	4,150,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.04	2.04	29,000
Cebu Prop. Vent B	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	2,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.19	0.19	0.19	0.19	120,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.59	0.6	0.59	0.6	3,030,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.037	0.039	0.037	0.039	3,000,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	2,574,000
Interport Res.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	12,000,000
Interport Res. B	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	10,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.54	1.54	53,089,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.22	0.225	0.22	0.22	3,040,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	250,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	11	11	11	11	281,300
SM Development Corp.	1.62	1.62	1.62	1.62	5,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	4,535,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.0825	0.0825	0.075	0.075	400,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	15.25	15.25	15	15.25	12,600
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1.26	1.26	1.24	1.26	1,283,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	925	925	910	910	56,900
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.7	3.75	3.65	3.75	3,888,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	2010	2010	2005	2010	39,100
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Ionics Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.78	1.8	248,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	6,600,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.029	160,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	13.5	13.5	13.25	13.25	871,700
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.54	1.54	1.5	1.54	680,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.57	0.57	0.56	0.57	380,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	8.4	8.4	8.4	8.4	5,000
iPeople Inc.	3	3.05	3	3	103,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Macroasia Corp.	2.14	2.2	2.12	2.12	228,000
Paxys Inc.	10.75	11.25	10.75	11.25	72,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.25	2,664,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	3.3	3.4	3.2	3.35	2,643,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7.1	7.2	7	7	2,370,000
Benguet Corp. A	11.5	11.5	11.25	11.25	22,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	1,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	12,630,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.34	0.34	0.33	0.34	1,600,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.023	0.024	0.023	0.024	21,500,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.024	0.025	0.024	0.025	11,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	249,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	3.85	3.95	3.8	3.85	8,112,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	3.8	3.9	3.8	3.9	6,724,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	224,000
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	400,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.55	0.55	0.53	0.53	730,000
OIL					
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	34,700,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,811,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.24	1,111,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	14	15.25	14	15	534,200
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100

CURRENCIES

May 29, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.785484	1.000000	52.8220
Japan	Yen	0.006969	0.008872	0.4686
United Kingdom	Pound	1.458723	1.857100	98.0957
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.101285	0.128946	6.8112
Switzerland	Franc	0.640427	0.815328	43.0673
Canada	Dollar	0.709818	0.903669	47.7336
Singapore	Dollar	0.497268	0.633072	33.4401
Australia	Dollar	0.595064	0.757576	40.0167
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.084342	2.653576	140.1672
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.209440	0.266638	14.0844
Brunei	Dollar	0.495699	0.631074	33.3346
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000085	0.000108	0.0057
Thailand	Baht	0.020485	0.026079	1.3775
Uae	Dirham	0.213912	0.272331	14.3851
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.273100	67.2477
ArgentinaPeso	0.254837	0.324433	17.1372	
Brazil	Real	0.350976	0.446828	23.6023
Denmark	Kroner	0.134115	0.170742	9.0189
India	Rupee	0.017146	0.021829	1.1531
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.215792	0.274725	14.5115
Mexico	New Peso	0.070682	0.089985	4.7532
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498847	0.635082	33.5463
South Africa	Rand	0.120488	0.153393	8.1025
Korea	Won	0.000831	0.001058	0.0559
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.024556	0.031262	1.6513

Stocks down …

From page B1

They said rising oil prices and a weaker peso may prod the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas to lift rates, ahead of another potential rise in US interest rates later next month.

The composite index shed 17.50 points to 2,282.89 after moving between 2,278.85 and 2,310.19. Volume reached 723.17 million shares worth P1.02 billion. Losers outnumbered gainers 39 to 34, with 43 stocks closing flat.

The broader all-shares index fell 7.54 points to 1,429.87.

"Last Friday's recovery was just a technical bounce, which cannot be sustained as concerns over rising interest rates remain," said Nestor Aguila of DA Market Securities.

AB Capital Securities said, in a note to clients, the BSP may increase its benchmark overnight rates at its policy meeting on Thursday, after keeping them steady for seven straight months.

Property firms fell on worries that higher interest rates would dampen real estate sales.

Bucking the downtrend, mining counters continued to shine after metal prices rose in US trading Friday following sharp losses earlier in the week.

"There is a school of thought that metals will continue to be a good hedge against inflation and many investors believe that," said Aguila. *AFP*

Oil producers urged to invest in education, bonds

To avoid 70s woe where excess money lent to developing countries led to debt crises

By Abigail L. Ho

INSTEAD OF JUST KEEPING THEIR PETRO-dollars in banks, Asian economies are encouraging oil-producing countries to channel these into education-related initiatives that will have a lasting effect on the oil industry, as well as to Asian bonds that can be used to bankroll development projects in the region.

Coming off a recent meeting with various foreign ministers in Qatar, Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla related that the reinvestment of petrodollars in Asian economies was one of the issues they discussed, in light of the rising prices of oil in the world market these past two years.

"I think that's a very important point because right now, due to the higher prices of oil, we are experiencing the same phenomenon that occurred in the 70s, where you have petrodollars floating out there and, of course, they would have to find some place to be invested in," he told reporters.

Petrodollars refer to the money that oil exporters get from from selling crude oil, which are deposited in Western banks.

In the 70s and 80s, bulk of the surplus petrodollars were deposited in American and European banks, and subsequently lent to oil-importing developing countries. This contributed to Latin America's debt crisis.

"We need to learn our lessons from the past. The oil-producing countries have actually far greater alternatives on how to invest their money now than in the 70s, because there are things they can actually invest in," Lotilla said.

Lotilla said that as some of the biggest oil consumers in the world—China and India—were in Asia, it would make sense for oil-producing countries to reinvest their petrodollars in the region.

These investments could come in the form of education-related initiatives that would help oil-consuming countries produce skilled workers who could eventually contribute to the oil sector, he said.

He said Saudi Arabia specifically, for example, could invest its petrodollars in education in the country, as the Philippines supplied a large number of skilled workers to the world's oil giant.

"That way, we can tailor-fit the kind of people that we produce for the particular needs of the oil-producing economies that need them. For instance, if basic Arabic language skills are necessary, then they can be incorporated into the curricula," he explained.

If not in education-related initiatives, he said Asian bonds could be floated to "absorb some of the excess petrodollars."

The proceeds of the bond flotation could then be used by Asian economies to bankroll various development projects in the region, he said.

He declined to give further details on the Asian bonds, however, saying the Department of Finance would have to be the one to flesh out that proposal.

'Get tough . . .

From page B1

lic-private partnerships, fully reflecting the past experience," Tanigaki said.

But the finance minister said debates on quite a number of issues in infrastructure development had sprung, including as to whether donor support had simply left "white elephants" behind, or whether enough attention was given to adverse environmental and social impacts.

A paper titled "Infrastructure for Growth: Emerging Issues" presented by World Bank senior economic adviser Antonio Estache cited surveys showing that the poorer a country was, the bigger the corruption problem in infrastructure.

He cited four main directions pushed by researchers over the last 20 years to stamp out this problem of corruption: Privatization, boosting regulation and related processes, increased decentralization and adoption of a participatory process in the selection, implementation and supervision of projects.

But the economist also agreed that the world could not live without public sector participation in infrastructure development, especially in passenger transport as well as water and sanitation.

"Private investment is needed but not a full substitute to other sources," Estache said, noting the world had gone over the "illusion of privatization" harbored in the 1990s. He noted that telecommunication was the only utility sector which had successfully attracted huge private investment over the years.

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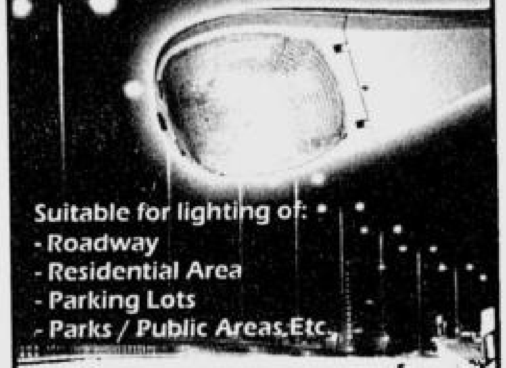

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EEI CORPORATION

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the 2006 Annual Stockholders' Meeting of EEI CORPORATION will be held on June 09, 2006, at 10:00 A.M. at RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City, Metro Manila, to consider and act upon the following matters:

1. Certification of Sending of Notices and Quorum.
2. Approval of the Minutes of the Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on June 17, 2005.
3. Chairman and CEO's Report/Review of Operations.
   a. 2005 Highlights
   b. Outlook for 2006
4. Approval of the Annual Report and Ratification of the Actions of the Board of Directors/Officers.
5. Election of Directors.
6. Appointment of External Auditors.
7. Transaction of other business which may come before the meeting.
8. Adjournment.

The Board of Directors has fixed the close of business on March 31, 2006 as the record date for the purpose of determining the Company's stockholders entitled to notice, and to vote at, the said meeting.

Stockholders who cannot attend the meeting but would like to be represented thereat, should accomplish the proxy form which have been mailed to them together with the Agenda, Information Statement, and Annual Report, and return the same to the Office of the Crorporate Secretary not later than 24 hours before the meeting, for validation of proxies entitled to vote.

(Sgd.) FERDINAND G. VILLAFUERTE
Senior Vice President & Corporate Secretary

(PDI—May 30, 2006)

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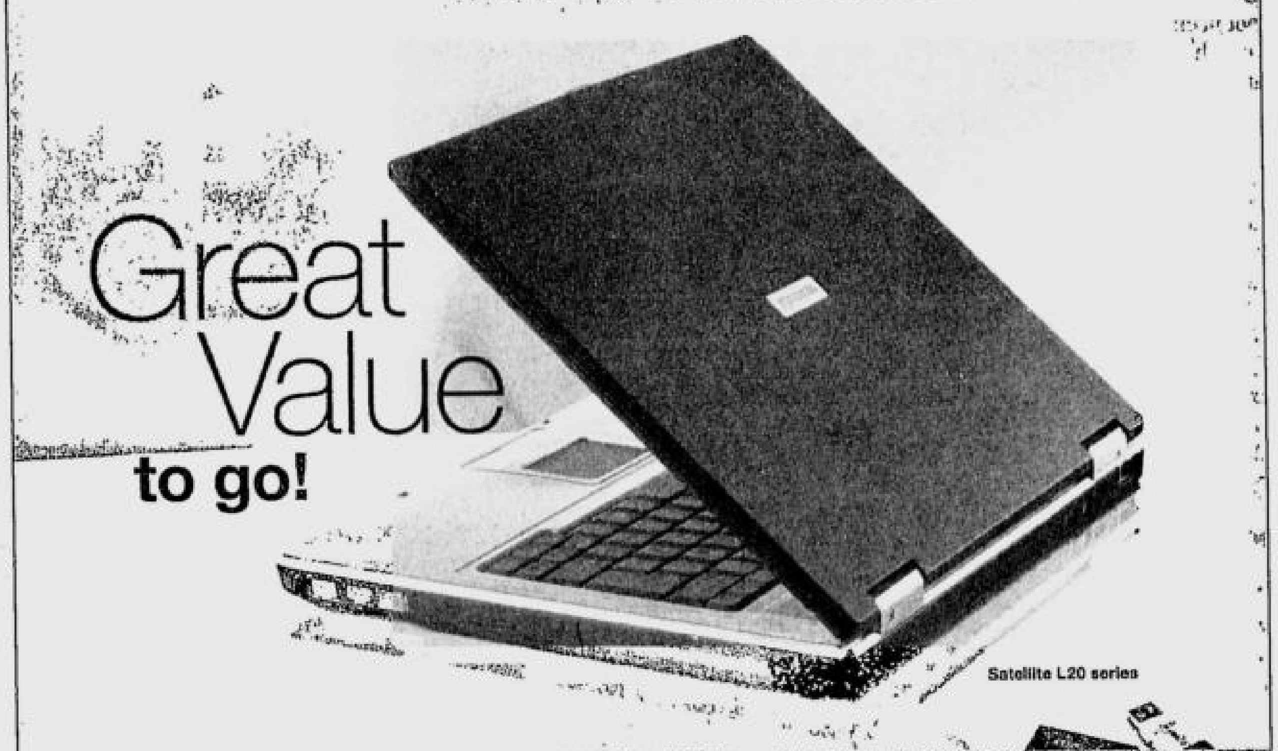

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RIZALINA LOMOTAN-PAULINO

of Malolos, Bulacan

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on May 26, 2006 at the age of 58.

Her bereaved husband, **Reynaldo**; children: **Rommel & Gem**, **Leslie & Carly**, **Alex**, and **Maricon**; grandchildren: **Pot-Pot**, **Paula**, **Paulo & Chia**; brothers: **Arnold**, **Danny**, **Sip**, **Romy & Bert**; sister: **Nelia**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in heaven.

Her remains lie in state at Sto. Niño Chapel, Malolos, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 after the 9:00 a.m. Holy Mass at Sto. Niño Chapel.

MESSAGE OF THANKS

We, the family of the late

HUDSON O. CHUA

July 11, 1966 – May 13, 2006

express our heartfelt gratitude to those who condoled with us; offered masses and prayers; sent flowers, cards and messages of sympathy; gave donations; visited and kept vigil; attended the funeral rites and memorial services; and who, in countless ways, helped and comforted us during our moment of bereavement.

Please continue to pray for his eternal repose in heaven.

"God be with you on your journey home.
We will miss you dearly."

"If I had a single flower for every time I think of you, I could walk forever in my garden"

In Loving Memory
on the **Third Death Anniversary** of

JULIE ANNE LIM EVORA

September 18, 1977 – May 30, 2003

Remembering POT'S life brings us joy and though our hearts still grieve, there is so much love and comfort in the memories she left.

Masses have been offered for Julie's eternal peace and happiness. We request the reader to say a prayer for her too.

Death Notice

Brigida Valenzuela
of Matuyatuya, Torrijos,
Marinduque
* February 1, 1928
+ May 28, 2006

Her body lies at Chapel D3, Funeraria Nacional, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City until Wednesday night, May 31 and will be brought home to Matuyatuya, Torrijos, Marinduque right after. Interment will be on June 3, 2006, after the 1 p.m. funeral Mass.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

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The Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc. now invites Sealed Bids from eligible bidders to bid for assorted scrap (iron/steel), unserviceable electrical equipment/devices office equipment and unserviceable vehicles with a floor price in the amount of one million nine hundred sixty four two hundred twenty five pesos only (P1,964,225.00)

The Bidding Documents may be purchased from Nueva Ecija II Electric Cooperative, Inc (NEECO II) Main Office, Calipahan, Talavera, Nueva Ecija, Philippines, upon submission of a written application to the above and upon payment of non-refundable fee of THREE THOUSAND PESOS ONLY (P3,000.00) in cash beginning May 29, 2006

Sealed proposal will be received by the NEECO II-Committee on Disposal of Non-Performing Assets at NEECO II Main Office on or before 2:00 P.M., June 16, 2005 at which time and place of said proposal will be opened and read in the presence of Bidder or Bidder's authorized representatives who choose to attend. Late submission will not be accepted.

Pre-bid Conference and inspection of scrap materials will be conducted at the NEECO II Main Office at 2.00 P M. on June 9, 2006.

All bids submitted must be accompanied by a bid security of not less than ten (10%) percent of the total bid price.

The NEECO II hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any informalities therein and to accept such bid as may be considered advantageous to the cooperative.

ENGR. JOSEPHINE L. BADIOLA
Chairperson Committee on Disposal

(PDI–May 30 & 31, 2006)

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People, Events & Products

ProductFILES

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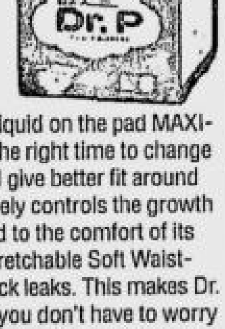

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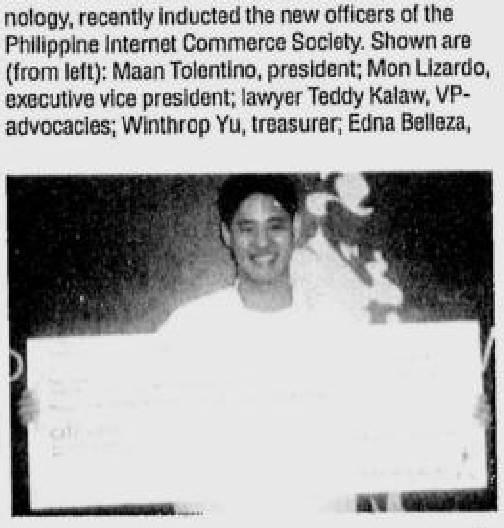
NEW PICS BOARD

Secretary Ramon P. Sales (left), chair of the Commission on Information and Communications Technology, recently inducted the new officers of the Philippine Internet Commerce Society. Shown are (from left): Maan Tolentino, president; Mon Lizardo, executive vice president; lawyer Teddy Kalaw, VP-advocacies; Winthrop Yu, treasurer; Edna Belleza, corporate secretary; Mike Abundo, VP-emerging technologies; and Erick Kalugdan, VP-special projects. PICS is composed of individual and corporate members with the common objective of promoting the growth of e-commerce in the Philippines. The induction ceremony was sponsored by Yahoo!, Intel, Hewlett-Packard and Innove.



JOHNNIE WALKER F1 RACING CHALLENGE PROMO WINNER

The race results are in. Carlo Santos of Greenmeadows Village, Pasig City bags top honors for the Johnnie Walker F1 Racing Challenge: a chance to fly to Sepang, Malaysia to watch the Formula 1 Grand Prix. It was at Il Ponticello where Carlos ordered Johnnie Walker and got his prize-winning raffle promo ticket.

The pop heartthrob shares the stage with Jollibee

IF THERE'S ONE PERSON WHO'S A living proof that dreams do come true, it has to be Mark Bautista. Anyone who has closely followed his career knows about the inspiring story that has led him to where he is now. From Cagayan de Oro to Manila, Mark has always carried his love for singing and his dreams of success close to his heart. He got the attention not just of fans and fellow musicians but also of the no. 1 Filipino fast food chain, Jollibee, as he was tapped to be one of its select endorsers. These days, he is happily living out that dream especially now that he has just concluded his first solo concert and Jollibee was there behind him to support him all the way.

The concert was definitely one for the books as Mark Bautista outdid himself with a show that brought his singing prowess in the limelight and showed everyone that dreams do come true with the help of people who truly believe in you.

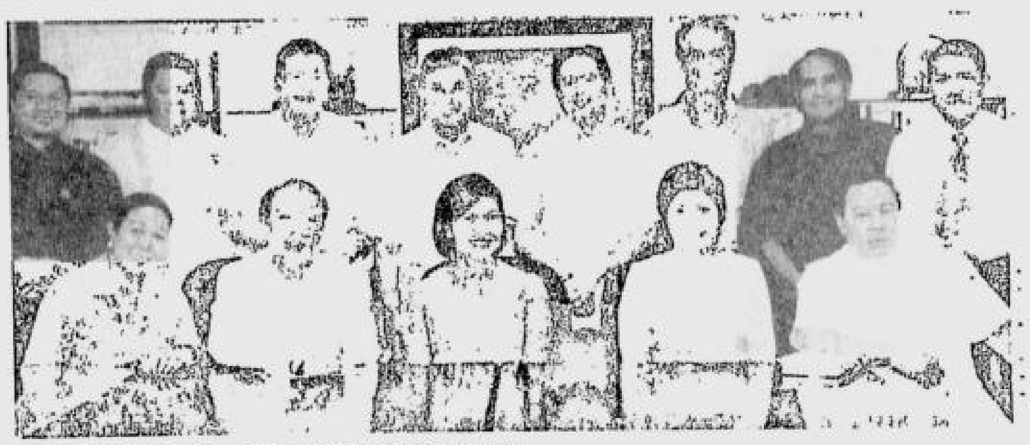
"Dati po, nag-re-record lang ako ng mga kanta sa mga cassette tape. Tapos, gumugupit ako ng pictures at yun 'yung ginagawa kong album cover. Mga tatlong tracks lang 'yung laman ng album ko pero sobrang saya ko na. (I used to record songs on cassette tapes and then cut up pictures and use them as album covers. There were only around three tracks on the tape but that already made me very happy.)," a rather emotional Mark confessed onstage.

Now, he not only has a number of chart-topping albums under his belt, he is also a well-loved celebrity who has earned the support of established brands like Jollibee. Proof of this is the all-out support that the number one fast food brand in the country has given to Mark. Apart from helping him promote the concert by displaying posters in (actually, mega manila stores only) its stores, organizing store visits and lending support to his mall tours, Jollibee was there on Mark's big night.

With his onscreen partner and fellow Yumburger fan, Sarah Geronimo, Mark shared the stage with Jollibee for a rousing song and dance number with Baliw. Mark's younger fans in the audience were particularly delighted to see their favorite bee dancing and grooving like a pro with Mark and Sarah as they displayed their vocal genius.

All in all, Mark Bautista's first solo attempt in the concert scene proved to be a major success. By sharing his passion for music, displaying his vocal flexibility and performing with all his heart, Mark has opened yet another chapter of his life with a big bang.

There really is no stopping Mark Bautista as he continues to climb up the ladder of success. And yet the people closest to him know that despite all the glitter and fame, Mark remains to be the down-to-earth, family-oriented and Jollibee-loving boy they've always known. That's why fans, friends and relatives all the way from Cagayan de Oro and even the U.S. didn't hesitate to fly in to Manila to witness Mark's beautifully touching and entertaining solo concert, which will surely be a first of many others in the years to come.



ADBOARD, AD FOUNDATION MEET

The executive committees of the Advertising Board of the Philippines and Advertising Foundation of the Philippines recently met to forge collaborative initiatives towards strengthened unity and sustained growth of the Philippine advertising and marketing communications industry. AdBoard focuses on industry self-regulation body such as advertising content regulation and conduct of business like screening of advertising materials; the Ad Foundation social development communications and social marketing such as values orientation, voters education and nation-building endeavors. The executive committees of the above industry bodies are (seated, from left): Linda Gamboa, Ad Foundation assistant board secretary and executive director; Antonia Samson, president and CEO of Optimum Media (OMD) and Ad Foundation chairman of the board trustees; Ma. Teresa Villanueva, senior executive officer of JimenezBasic Advertising and chair of the AdBoard board of directors; Vivian Tin, vice president for research and business analysis of ABS-CBN and AdBoard board secretary; and Oscar Valenzuela, AdBoard executive director; (standing from left): Lucien Dy-Tioco, vice president for advertising of The Philippine Star and AdBoard PRO; Carlo Llavo, president and general manager of The Fourth Dimensions Inc and AdBoard vice chair; Arnedo Lucas, managing director of Roadrunner Network and Ad Foundation treasurer; Jose Rafael Hernandez, president of Well Advertising and Ad Foundation membership chair; Johnip Cua, president of Procter & Gamble Philippines and Ad Foundation board secretary and incoming board chair; Howard Belton, chair and CEO of Unilever Philippines Inc and Ad Foundation international relations officer; Edgar Navalta, Asap president and AdBoard treasurer; and Raul Alvarez, assistant vice president for marketing services of PLDT and AdBoard values promotions committee director. It was agreed in the joint executive committee meeting that the AdBoard will turn over to Ad Foundation the Araw Values Advertising (AVA) awards for Ad Foundation biennial implementation, starting this 2006, as the 1st AdBoard, Ad Foundation collaborative endeavor.

Deutsche Bank donates funds for school building

DEUTSCHE BANK RECENTLY donated funds to construct a new school building at Daanghari Elementary School in Navotas, a fishing village located in Metro Manila. The donation is part of the Bank's broader regional philanthropic initiative of the Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation.

The project was initiated in response to the Department of Education's Adopt-A-School-Program, which aims to provide much needed assistance and service to public schools by creating partnerships among the business sector, NGOs, civic groups, individuals and the education department.

Present at the handover ceremony were Navotas Mayor Toby Tiangco, Department of Education (DepEd) school division superintendent Dr. Nenita Rivera, Daanghari principal Dr. Teresita Lopez, Philippine Business for Social Progress (PBSP) Luzon operations manager Robby Nazal, Deutsche Bank chief operating officer Rhoneil Fajardo, faculty, students and community members of Daanghari Elementary School.

Deutsche Bank, in partnership with the PBSP, identified Daanghari Elementary School as its project beneficiary in 2005 due to a lack of classroom facilities. Daanghari Elementary School had a classroom-student ratio of 1:91.

"We chose the Daanghari Elementary School because of its critical pupil-classroom ratio where its 2,536 students share only 28 classrooms," said Enrico Cruz, Deutsche Bank's chief country officer for the Philippines.

"This is our modest contribution to the development of the country's educational The project formed part of Deutsche Bank's active involvement in PBSP's Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction (Step-Up). The Step-Up program aims to assist poor communities through the provision of affordable housing, school building, roads, portable water and drainage systems.

DB Manila staff also participated in a Staff Outreach Program for Daanghari Elementary School whereby Deutsche Bank and staff donated funds to repair and purchase items for the school library such as computer tables, desks, wall fans, encyclopedias and other reading materials. About 17 DB Manila Staff also imparted their time, one day to make-over the school's library - painting the walls and bookshelves, covering books and a range of other tasks.

Deutsche Bank Manila also partnered with the National Bookstore Foundation (NBF) to arrange for Daanghari Elementary School to become a beneficiary of NBF's Mobile Library Tour.

In recognition of the Bank's contribution to strengthening the quality of education in the country, Deutsche Bank received a DepEd Partnership Award.

The Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation was established in December 2003 to provide financial assistance to community support programs in a number of countries throughout Asia where the Bank conducts business. The classroom projects are part of the Deutsche Bank Asia Foundation's activities in the Philippines.

PLDT RECEIVES ANVIL AWARD

PLDT recently received an Anvil Award of Merit from the Public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP) under the External Publications – Calendar category. The 2005 desk calendar featured Roni Santiago's Baltic & Co. comic strip and words of wisdom from some of The Outstanding Young Men (TOYM) awardees. Shown during the awards rites are PLDT media senior manager Horace Lavides, 2nd from left, holding the Anvil trophy flanked by senior publications assistant Anthony O. Alcantara, media section head Sennen F. Lacsamana, and senior publications assistant Jun M. Samballlo.

FedEx Moves to Bigger Service Center in Cubao

FEDEX, A SUBSIDIARY OF FEDEX CORP (NYSE: FDX) and the world's largest express transportation company, has moved its Cubao World Service Center (WSC) to a new location and upgraded the facilities in order to provide its customers with faster and more efficient service. The new WSC is conveniently located near the commercial shopping district of Ali Mall and Gateway Mall, and will service the entire Araneta Center and the Aurora Boulevard district up to Edsa. Improvements include a 236 sq m floor area and an increased number of parking spaces for customers. Says Clifton Chua, managing director for FedEx in the Philippines, Thailand, and Indochina, "With a strategic new location and improved facilities, we now have the flexibility to better meet the increasing needs of our customers in this thriving business district." For free B-roll/video content about FedEx please log onto www.thenewsmarket.com/fedex to review and request video. You can receive broadcast-standard video digitally or by tape from this site. Registration and video is free to the media.

TransCo
National Transmission Corporation
Republic of the Philippines

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF LOOSE BREAKER FAILURE RELAYS AND ACCESSORIES

(Reference No.: PB060403-LE0055/PR No. PID-06-000018385)

1. The NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION, Head Office Region (TRANSCO-HO) through the 2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board intends to apply the sum of *Php 9,980,000.00* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *PB060403-LE0055/PR No. PID-06-000018385, Supply and Delivery of Loose Breaker Failure Relays and Accessories.* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening Award shall be on a lot basis.
2. The TRANSCO-HO now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for *Supply and Delivery of Loose Breaker Failure Relays and Accessories.* Delivery of the GOODS is required within sixty (60) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine resposiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders, from the address below, from *May 23, 2006 to June 20, 2006* from *9:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.* and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00.* The method of payment will be **Cash.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The TRANSCO-HO will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **June 06, 2006/1:30 P.M.** at the address below.
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *June 21, 2006/2:00 P.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract to be Bid
1. Cash, certified check, cashier's check manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit	One percent (1%) of P99,800.00
2. Bank guarantee	One and a half percent (1 1/2% or P149,700.00
3. Surety bond	Two and a half percent (2 1/2%) or P249,000.00
4. Foreign government guarantee	One hundred percent (100%) or P9,980,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on *June 21, 2006/2:00 PM* at the *Admin Conference Room same address below.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. The *National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, G/F TransCo Main Bldg.
Power Center, Quezon Ave. corner BIR Road
Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. No. (632) 9812205/(632) 9812241
Fax No (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – May 23 & 30, 2006)

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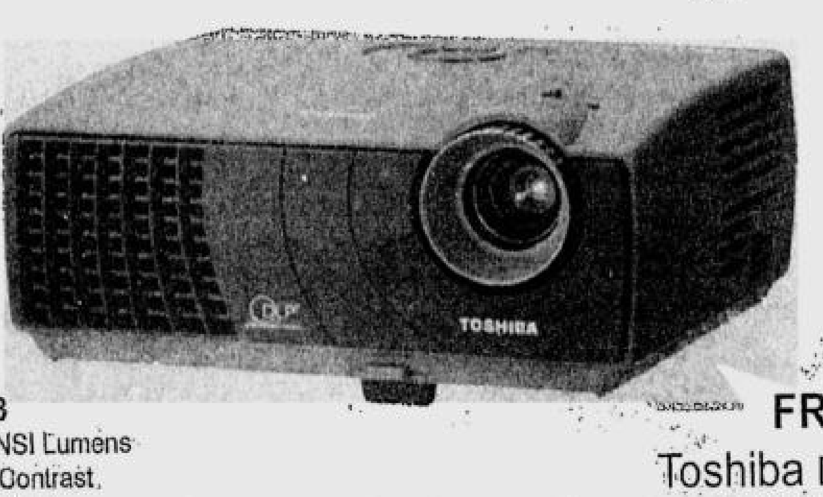

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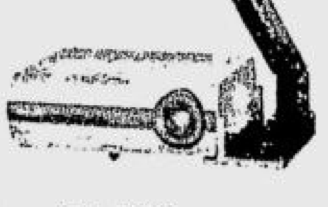

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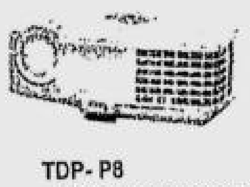

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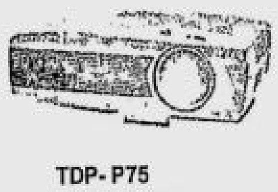

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- Remote Mouse/ Powerpoint Control
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Gov't to raise tax collection goal

Customs tasked to raise bulk of increase in revenues

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE IS POISED TO RAISE the government's revenue-collection target next year to bring back the tax effort to levels prior to the Asian financial crisis.

A government official said that instead of the originally programmed revenue collection of P1.113 trillion for 2007, a higher target of P1.124 trillion is being considered by the DOF.

The P11-billion increase in the target would be shouldered by the Bureau of Customs (BOC), which will be tasked with collecting P231.1 billion in duties and value-added taxes (VAT).

The BOC's revenue target for 2007 will also be 17 percent higher than the P231.1 billion that the agency should collect this year. The BOC is the second-biggest revenue earner for the government among line agencies.

The Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR), the biggest revenue contributor for the government, will be assigned to generate P793.3 billion next year. This is 17-percent higher than the P675.4-billion target this year.

The DOF official said that with the increase in the revenue target, the government could attain the desired tax-effort level more quickly.

The government has set a goal of attaining a tax effort of at least 17 percent, which was last achieved in 1997. Starting 1998, following the Asian financial crisis, the tax effort fell every year, reaching 12.4 percent in 2004.

Although the Philippines was considered the least affected by the crisis, the resulting decline in economic output resulted in the decline in tax collection.

The tax effort slightly increased to 12.7 percent last year, and is expected to rise to 14.6 percent this year, to 15.7 percent next year, and to 16.1 percent in 2008.

The tax effort is the ratio between taxes and duties collected by the government to the country's gross domestic product (GDP). It determines whether the government is able to generate the supposed additional taxes and duties amid higher economic growth.

The official said that while the original revenue-collection program for the medium term reflected annual increase, the growth target should be higher to achieve the 17-percent tax-effort target earlier than expected.

The government has been reminded time and again by foreign creditors and credit-rating agencies on the need to become more aggressive in shoring up revenue collection to quickly fix its fiscal position and eventually boost economic growth.

Credit-rating firm Fitch Ratings earlier noted that the government's revenue collection was one of the lowest in Asia. The credit-rating firm said that increasing revenue collection was the more prudent way of reducing the government's budget deficit than cutting expenditures.

Monitor tax perks, BIR urged

THE BUREAU OF INTERNAL REVENUE should forge a deal with concerned agencies to get a periodic report of the status of tax- and duty-free privileges given to businesses.

This was suggested by the National Tax Research Center (NTRC), which said the government could better address huge leakages arising from the abuse of fiscal incentives if the BIR would be furnished with a regular report on the incentives status of companies.

The NTRC, tasked with conducting studies and providing recommendations on tax-related issues, said in a paper that the BIR should convince government agencies that grant fiscal incentives to provide a regular report on which companies were still entitled to fiscal incentives or those with expired incentives.

Estimates showed that the government was losing close to P300 billion a year due to the granting of incentives. The amount included legitimate incentives and those fraudulently claimed by businesses whose incentives have already expired.

The NTRC said there should be a communication line between the BIR and concerned agencies to ensure that the government only granted incentives to those who were legitimately covered by tax and duty perks.

Major government agencies granting fiscal incentives include the Board of Investments (BOI) and the Philippine Economic Zone Authority (Peza).

BOI grants income tax holidays, among other incentives, to firms included in the Investment Priorities Plan (IPP), a list of industries considered priority by the government.

Peza grants incentives to exporters located in economic zones. These companies are only required to pay a 5-percent tax on gross income in lieu of all other taxes.

Michelle V. Remo

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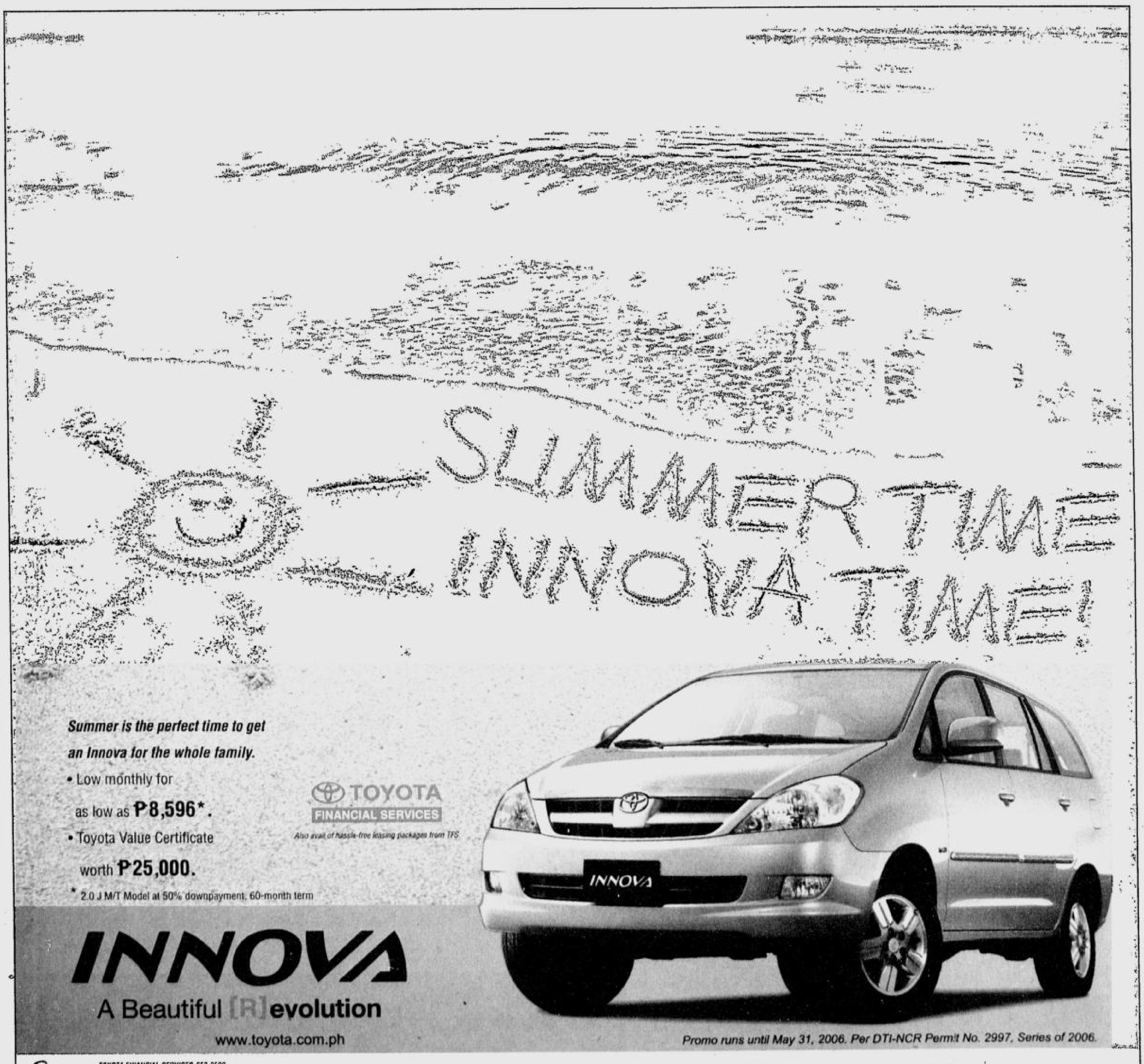

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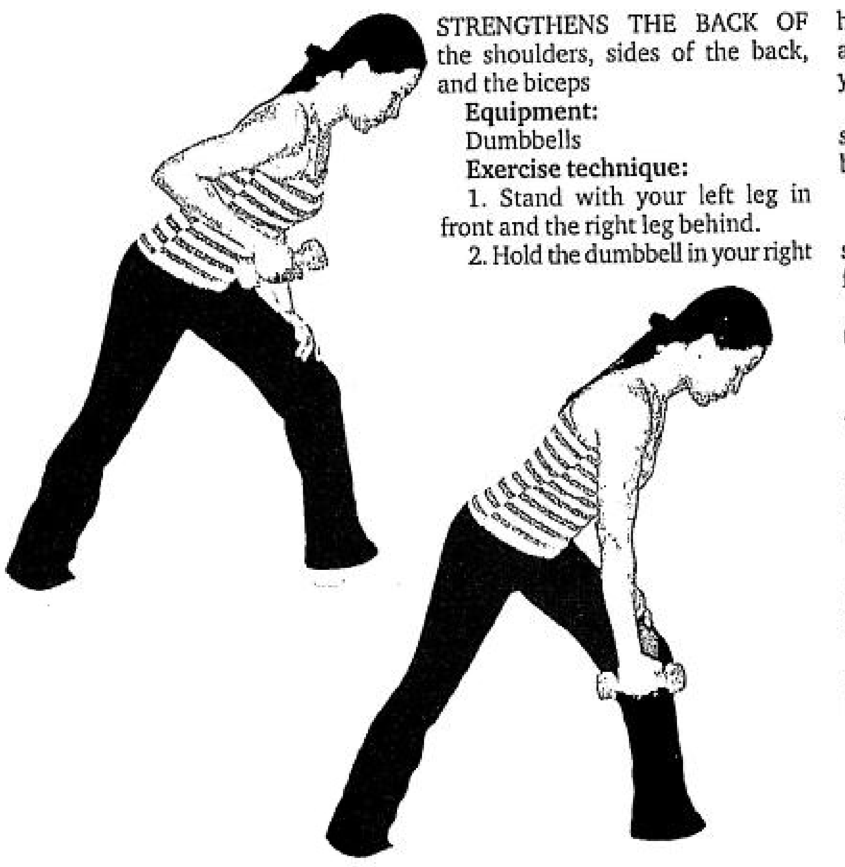
MONDAY ARTS & BOOKS ◎ TUESDAY FITNESS ◎ WEDNESDAY 2BU ◎ THURSDAY FOOD ◎ FRIDAY FASHION & BEAUTY

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Standing one-arm row



STRENGTHENS THE BACK OF the shoulders, sides of the back, and the biceps

Equipment:

Dumbbells

Exercise technique:

1. Stand with your left leg in front and the right leg behind.

2. Hold the dumbbell in your right hand. Lean forward from the hip and support your upper body with your left hand on your left thigh.

3. Lift dumbbell by drawing shoulder blade toward spine and bending elbow.

4. Keep elbow close to torso.

5. Slowly lower weight by straightening arm back toward floor.

6. Do all repetitions on one side, then the other.

Performance tips:

1. Keep your shoulders facing forward. Avoid rotating at the waist.

2. Pull in the abdominal muscles to prevent the lower back from arching or sagging as you lift the weight.

3. Don't let your head drop toward the floor. Don't look up to avoid arching your neck.

4. Lift the weight by squeezing the muscles at the side of your back and shoulders rather than pulling with your hand.

5. You will also feel a stretch in the calf of the leg behind.

Repetitions:

Do 12-15 repetitions per side.

Making exercise safe for you

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Juan

FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, FITNESS PROFESSIONALS drew up a list of "contraindicated" exercises. The list was an overreaction to numerous injuries resulting from the fitness craze in the '70s and '80s.

Today, the fitness industry is more mature. It knows reality is more complicated than just having a list of "good" and "bad" exercises. What is contraindicated for one person may be perfectly fine for another.

In other words, there are no contraindicated exercises, just contraindicated people. An exercise can be safe or unsafe depending on who is doing it.

The politically correct word these days is "risky," indicating that an exercise not only may require a higher level of fitness and skill, but also carries a higher degree of risk.

An example of a risky exercise is the stiff-legged deadlift. The exercise should be done only by someone with a strong back, flexible hamstrings, and almost perfect execution. It is definitely not for a novice exerciser. It is not even appropriate for an advanced exerciser with a weak back or tight hamstrings.

Risk-benefit ratio

The trick to enjoying the benefits of exercise while minimizing the risk is to assess the risk-benefit ratio of all exercises. The benefit should always outweigh the risk.

Athletes take great risks for a gold medal or a juicy endorsement contract. For them, the "benefit" outweighs the risk. The average person who simply wants to be fit and healthy should not take the same risks.

The more advanced the exercise, the more risky it usually is as it requires more strength, flexibility and skill. With the many kinds of exercises, choose those that match your own fitness level so the risk-benefit ratio will always be in your favor.

You might think pain is the best way to judge whether an exercise is unsafe or not. Unfortunately, pain does not always show up right away. Luckily, you don't have to wait until you are in agony to distinguish between a safe and unsafe exercise.

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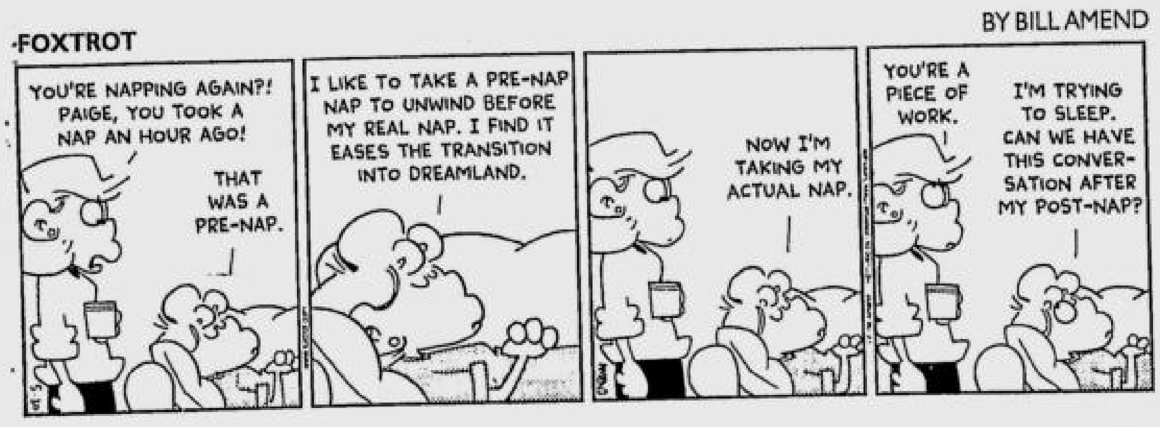
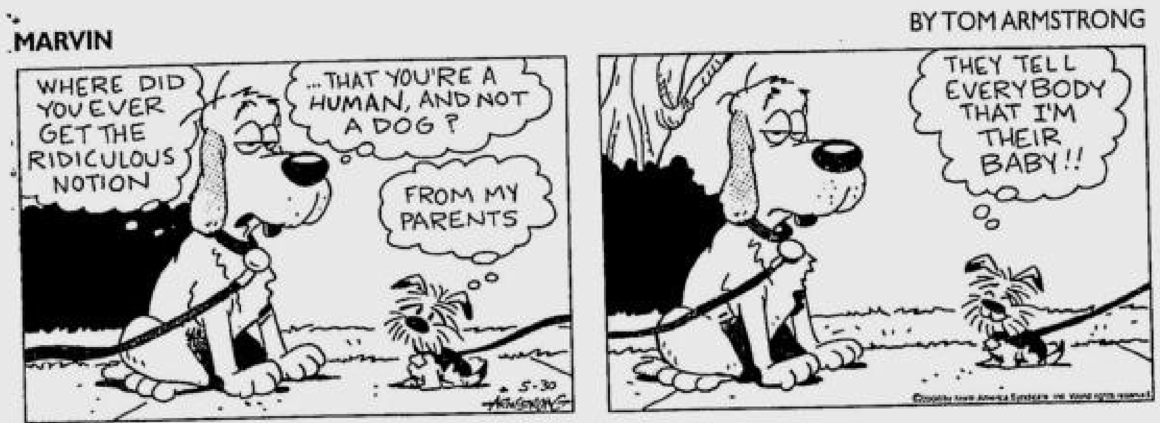
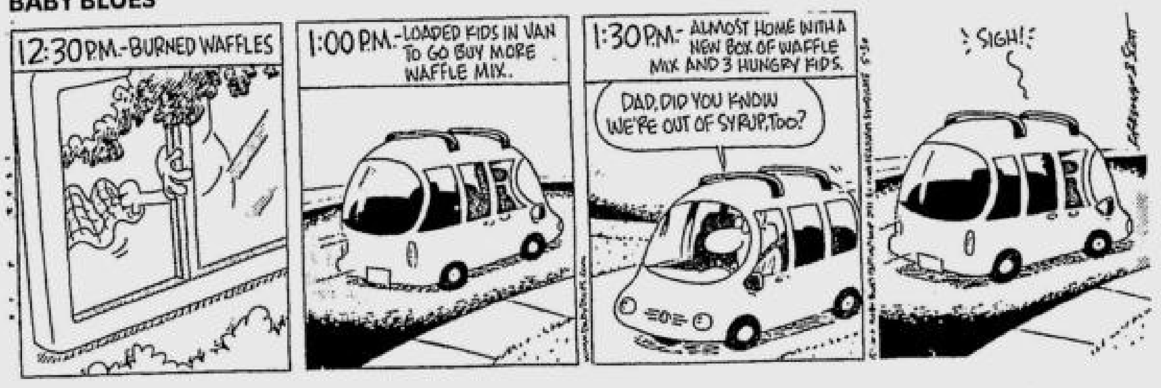

YOU'RE NAPPING AGAIN?! PAIGE, YOU TOOK A NAP AN HOUR AGO!
THAT WAS A PRE-NAP.
I LIKE TO TAKE A PRE-NAP NAP TO UNWIND BEFORE MY REAL NAP. I FIND IT EASES THE TRANSITION INTO DREAMLAND.
NOW I'M TAKING MY ACTUAL NAP.
YOU'RE A PIECE OF WORK.
I'M TRYING TO SLEEP. CAN WE HAVE THIS CONVERSATION AFTER MY POST-NAP?

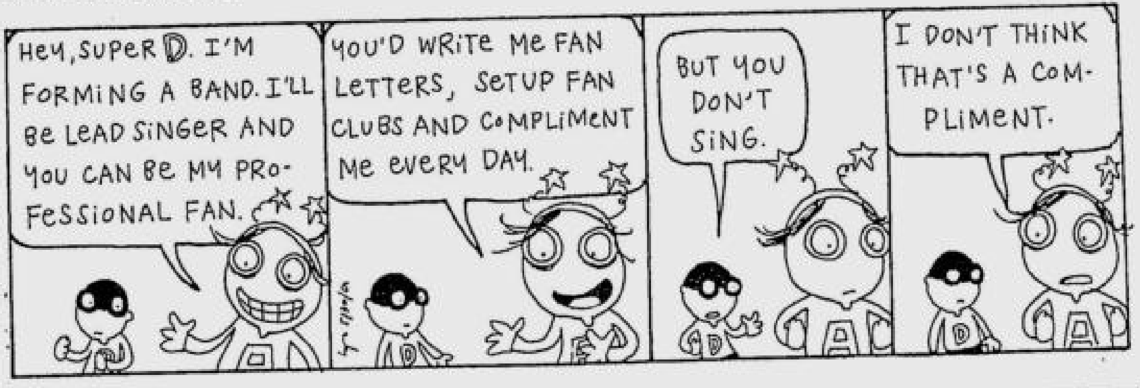
MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG


WHERE DID YOU EVER GET THE RIDICULOUS NOTION
...THAT YOU'RE A HUMAN, AND NOT A DOG?
FROM MY PARENTS
THEY TELL EVERYBODY THAT I'M THEIR BABY!!
5-30

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


12:30 P.M.-BURNED WAFFLES
1:00 P.M.-LOADED KIDS IN VAN TO GO BUY MORE WAFFLE MIX.
1:30 P.M.-ALMOST HOME WITH A NEW BOX OF WAFFLE MIX AND 3 HUNGRY KIDS.
DAD, DID YOU KNOW WE'RE OUT OF SYRUP, TOO?
SIGH!

ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Hey, Super D. I'M FORMING A BAND. I'LL Be LEAD SINGER AND YOU CAN Be MY PROFESSIONAL FAN.
YOU'D WRITE Me FAN LETTERS, SETUP FAN CLUBS AND COMPLIMENT Me EVERY DAY.
BUT YOU DON'T SING.
I DON'T THINK THAT'S A COMPLIMENT.

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Like many other Geminis, you have a strong drive for freedom and independence. You don't like routine. You don't like schedules. You act on your whims. And when you act, you act swiftly! You're multitalented. Many do not understand you. Increased solitude this year will help you to learn something valuable. Keep an open mind.

Birthdate of: Wynonna Judd, singer; Mel Blanc, cartoon voice; Meredith MacRae, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You have strong opinions today. That's because the Moon is lined up with your ruler, Mars. This makes your emotions intense and explosive. (Best to cool your jets.)

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You have an urge to win arguments today with others. You want to make a point. Don't let your ego run away with you! (Far better to keep the friendship, don't you think?)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): You might succumb to emotional shopping today. Strange feelings overtake you, and you might suddenly buy something or blow money in a weird way. Just be aware of this impulse.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): The Moon is in your sign today, and it's lined up with fiery Mars. This makes you a tad more aggressive than usual. If you're shy, it's a good thing. If you're not shy—you might be a bit bossy today. (Oops.)

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel restless today. It's as if something is on the back burner and it's starting to smoke. Pay little attention to this. These feelings of self-doubt are gone by tomorrow.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is a good day for group activities with others. However, you might be inclined to demand getting your own way. (Blame it on the stars.)

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Your ambition is definitely aroused today. In fact, people notice that you're willing to go after what you want, no ifs, ands or buts.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Use your highly charged energy today to study, explore new ideas or make travel plans. You're very enthusiastic about something.

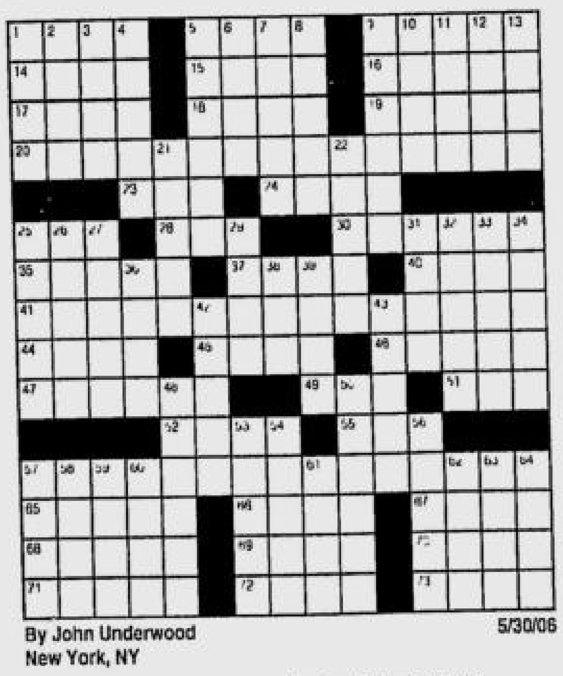
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You'll certainly defend your territory today. You might also want to fight for the underdog. You have definite views about how things should be shared.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be patient with partners and close friends today. Disagreements could arise very easily. (However, anger serves no purpose except to make everyone miserable.)

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): You have lots of energy to get things done today. Roll up your sleeves and reorganize things at work and at home. You want a sense of order!

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Parents must be patient with children today. Romantic situations are a bit of a loose cannon. Don't rock the boat. Tomorrow things get even more intense!

DAILY CROSSWORD



By John Underwood
New York, NY

5/30/06

ACROSS
1 "Walk the Line" subject
5 Fox step?
9 Car lifts
14 Norwegian capital
15 Greek liqueur
16 Key of "Eroica"
17 Bedazzle
18 Time of maximum fares
19 Refrain syllables
20 Three connections with 41A
23 Laugh loudly
24 Tropical nut tree
25 Assistance
28 Snooze
30 Struck dumb
35 Haggard
37 Sibilant jeer
40 Bakery decorator
41 Nursery rhyme time
44 Pro's foe
45 A.D. word
46 Wins by losing?
47 Homesteader
49 Seed shell
51 Sonic boomer, briefly
52 Test for doc wannabes?
55 Big sizes, briefly
57 Four connections with 41A
65 Competitor
66 Java neighbor
67 Elvis __ Presley
68 "A Bell for __"
69 Without delay!
70 Robin's Marian, for one
71 Pungent
72 Current reports
73 O-T separation

DOWN
1 Dollar value
2 Italian wine center
3 Squalid area
4 Bee product
5 Sunflower State capital
6 Contrite one
7 Missouri plateau
8 Godzilla's target
9 Flying woe
10 Frizzy do
11 Hammer end
12 Leafy vegetable
13 Luminary
21 Bugs __
22 Sudden insight
25 Mad. Ave. guy
26 Goddess of peace
27 Pub missiles
29 Loudness unit
31 System before stereo
32 High points
33 Places at the table
34 Assignation
36 Habeas corpus, e.g.
38 Wayside lodge
39 Corner sign
42 Mr. Polo
43 Curiously
48 Take on
50 Eurasian primroses
53 Composer Berg
54 Tantalize
56 Marshland
57 Stag club
58 Radames' love
59 Terrible Tsar?
60 Chimed
61 Discrepancy
62 Baghdad's land
63 Black as night?
64 Some linemen

Monday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	S	P	■	D	E	E	M	■	G	E	E	N	A
E	L	L	A	■	E	L	L	E	■	A	L	D	E	N
M	E	A	N	■	V	I	S	E	■	H	A	G	E	D
P	E	T	E	R	O	S	E	K	E	N	N	E	D	Y
■	■	■	L	A	T	H	■	■	R	E	D	■	■	■
S	O	W	■	T	E	A	C	A	R	T	■	L	I	P
P	I	A	N	O	■	■	O	N	E	■	E	I	R	E
E	L	T	O	N	J	O	H	N	D	E	N	V	E	R
N	E	T	S	■	E	R	A	■	■	R	E	I	N	S
D	D	S	■	S	W	A	N	S	E	A	■	D	E	E
■	■	■	L	T	E	■	■	E	A	S	I	■	■	■
P	E	G	G	Y	L	E	E	T	R	F	V	I	N	O
A	R	I	E	L	■	A	T	T	N	■	S	N	O	W
R	I	N	S	F	■	T	R	E	F	■	E	T	T	E
S	E	A	T	S	■	S	E	E	R	■	T	O	E	S

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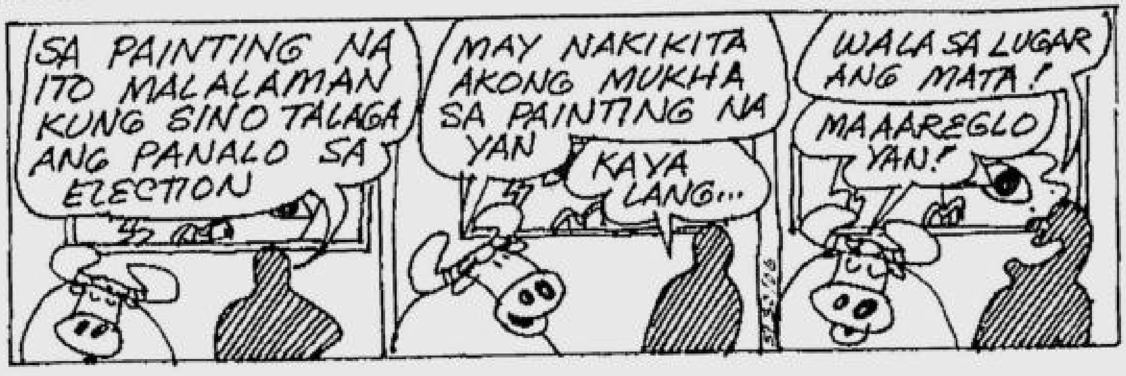
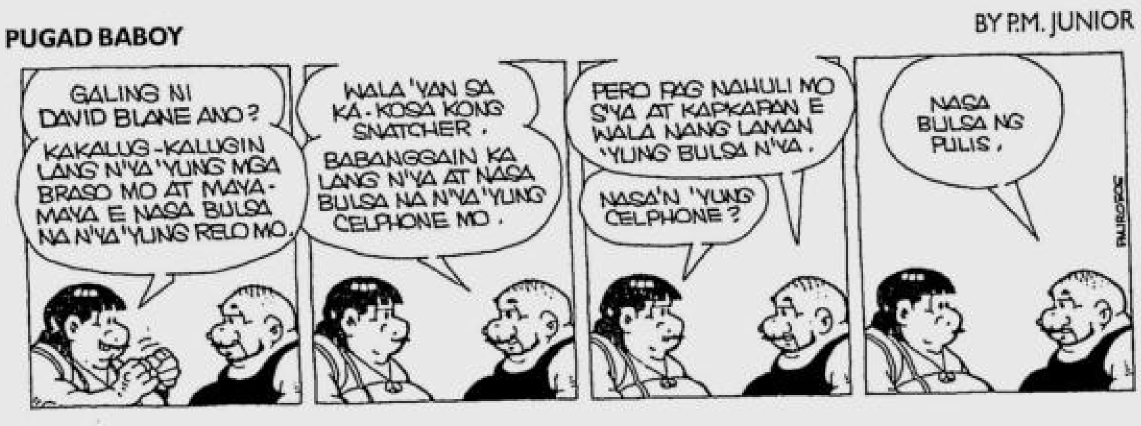
5/30/06

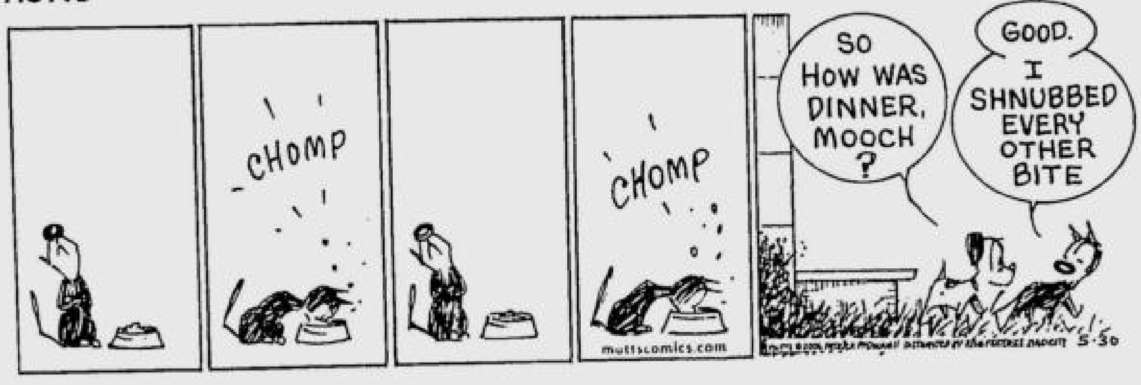
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SA PAINTING NA ITO MALALAMAN KUNG SINO TALAGA ANG PANALO SA ELECTION
MAY NAKIKITA AKONG MUKHA SA PAINTING NA YAN
KAYA LANG...
WALA SA LUGAR ANG MATA!
MAAAREGLO YAN!

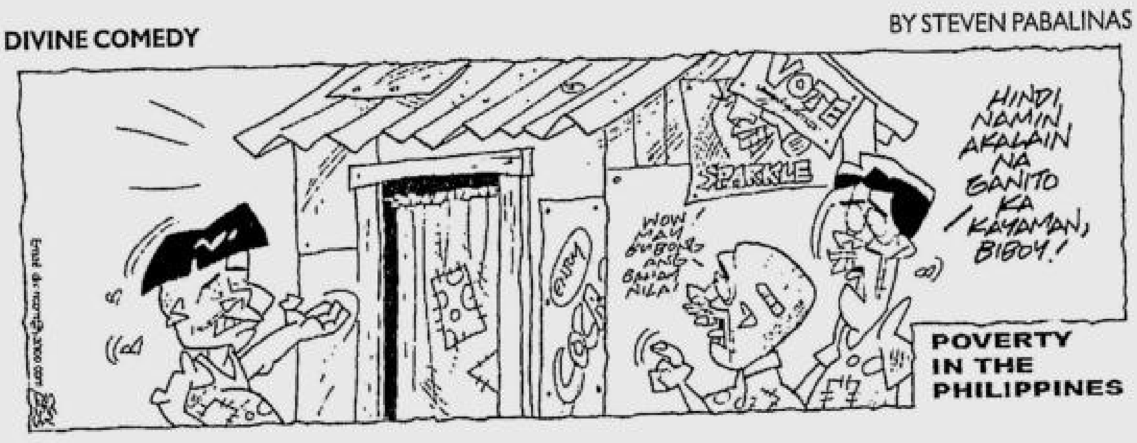
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


GALING NI DAVID BLANE ANO?
KAKALUG-KALUGIN LANG N'YA 'YUNG MGA BRASO MO AT MAYA-MAYA E NASA BULSA NA N'YA 'YUNG RELO MO.
WALA 'YAN SA KA-KOSA KONG SNATCHER.
BABANGGAIN KA LANG N'YA AT NASA BULSA NA N'YA 'YUNG CELPHONE MO.
PERO PAG NAHULI MO S'YA AT KAPKAPAN E WALA NANG LAMAN 'YUNG BULSA N'YA.
NASA'N 'YUNG CELPHONE?
NASA BULSA NG PULIS.

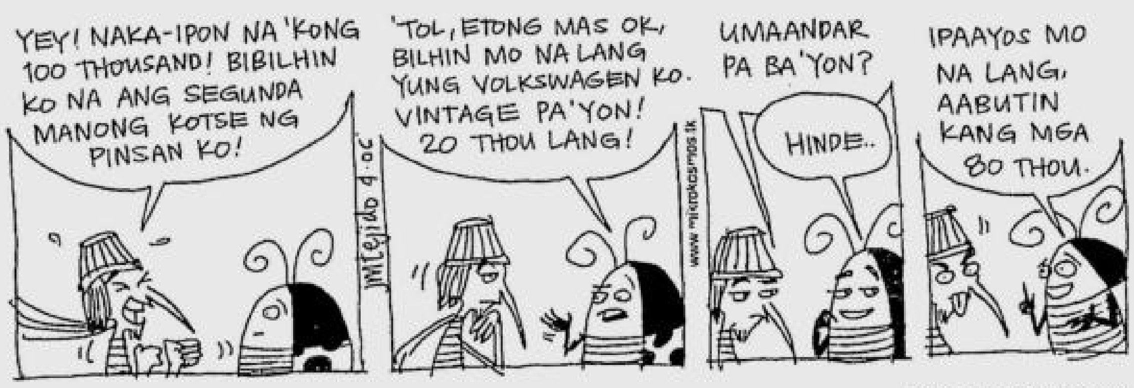
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


CHOMP
CHOMP
SO HOW WAS DINNER, MOOCH?
GOOD. I SHNUBBED EVERY OTHER BITE
muttscomics.com
5-30

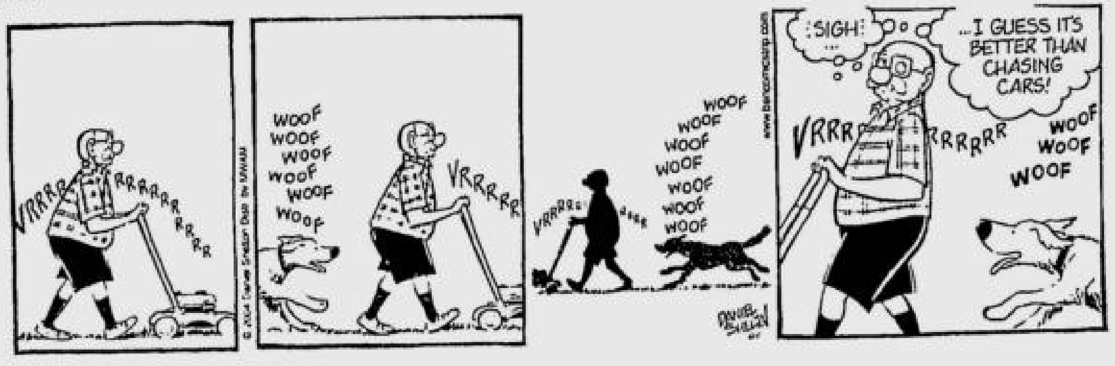
DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS


VOTE
SPARKLE
WOW! MAY GUBOY AT ANG BAHAY NILA!
HINDI NAMIN AKALAIN NA GANITO KA KAYAMAN, BIBOY!
POVERTY IN THE PHILIPPINES

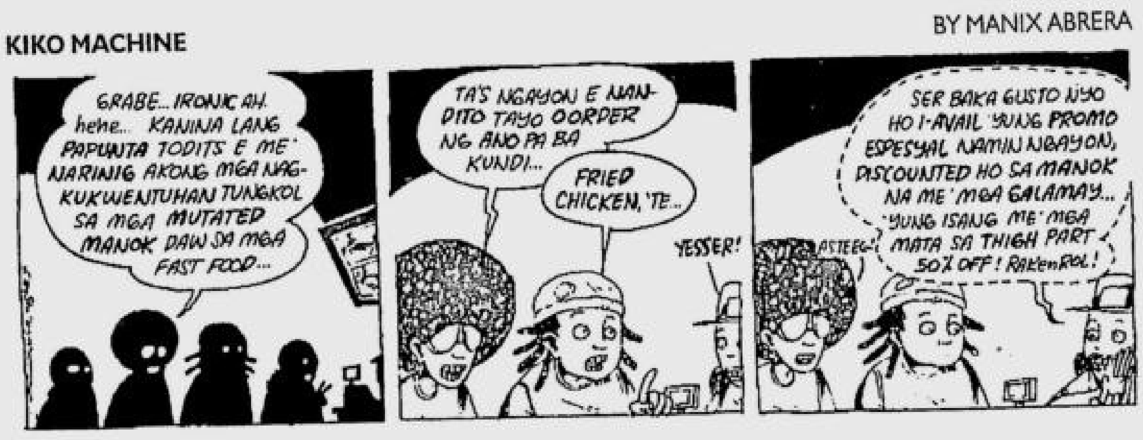
MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


YEY! NAKA-IPON NA 'KONG 100 THOUSAND! BIBILHIN KO NA ANG SEGUNDA MANONG KOTSE NG PINSAN KO!
'TOL, ETONG MAS OK, BILHIN MO NA LANG YUNG VOLKSWAGEN KO. VINTAGE PA'YON! 20 THOU LANG!
UMAANDAR PA BA'YON?
HINDE..
IPAAYOS MO NA LANG, AABUTIN KANG MGA 80 THOU.

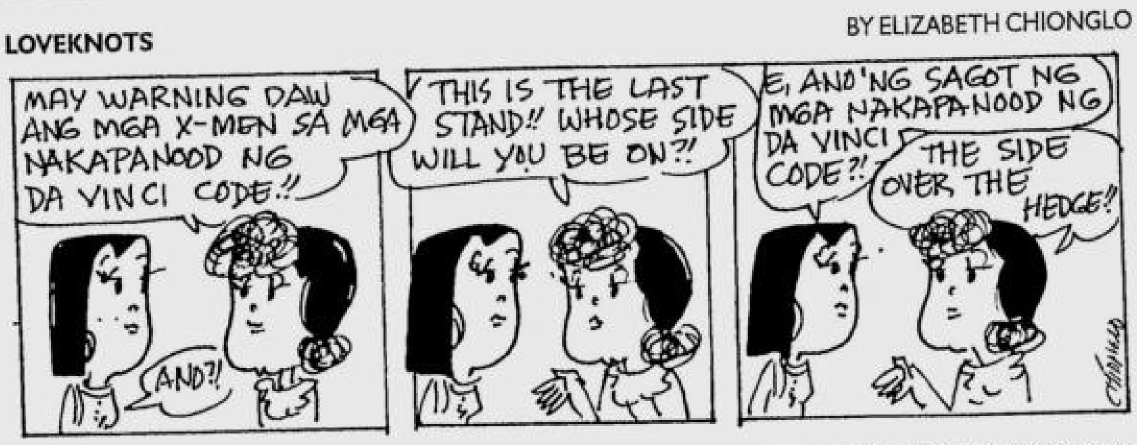
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


VRRRR RRRRRRRR
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
VRRRRR
WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF WOOF
SIGH!
...I GUESS IT'S BETTER THAN CHASING CARS!
VRRR RRRRRR
WOOF WOOF WOOF

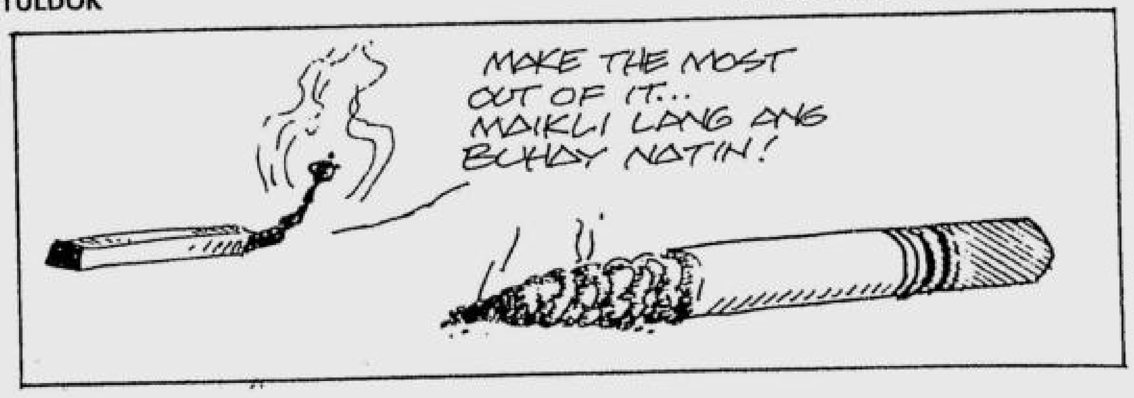
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


GRABE... IRONIC AH. hehe... KANINA LANG PAPUNTA TODITS E ME' NARINIG AKONG MGA NAG-KUKWENTUHAN TUNGKOL SA MGA MUTATED MANOK DAW SA MGA FAST FOOD...
TA'S NGAYON E NANDITO TAYO OORDER NG ANO PA BA KUNDI...
FRIED CHICKEN, 'TE...
YESSER!
SER BAKA GUSTO NYO HO I-AVAIL 'YUNG PROMO ESPESYAL NAMIN NGAYON, DISCOUNTED HO SA MANOK NA ME' MGA GALAMAY... 'YUNG ISANG ME' MGA MATA SA THIGH PART 50% OFF! RAKenROL!
ASTEEG

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MAY WARNING DAW ANG MGA X-MEN SA MGA NAKAPANOOD NG DA VINCI CODE!!
AND?!
THIS IS THE LAST STAND!! WHOSE SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?!
E, ANO'NG SAGOT NG MGA NAKAPANOOD NG DA VINCI CODE?!
THE SIDE OVER THE HEDGE!!

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

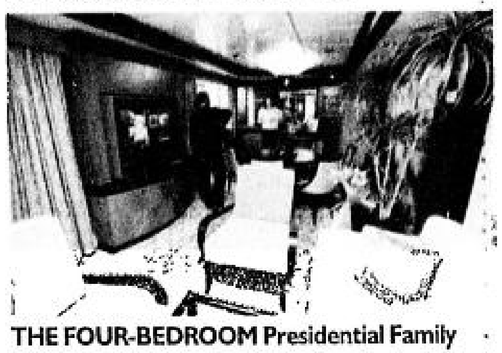

MAKE THE MOST OUT OF IT... MAIKLI LANG ANG BUHAY NATIN!

INQUIRER duo, Tessa P. V. and *moi*, in front of the pizzeria of the Royal Promenade, all set to drive away in a vintage Morgan.

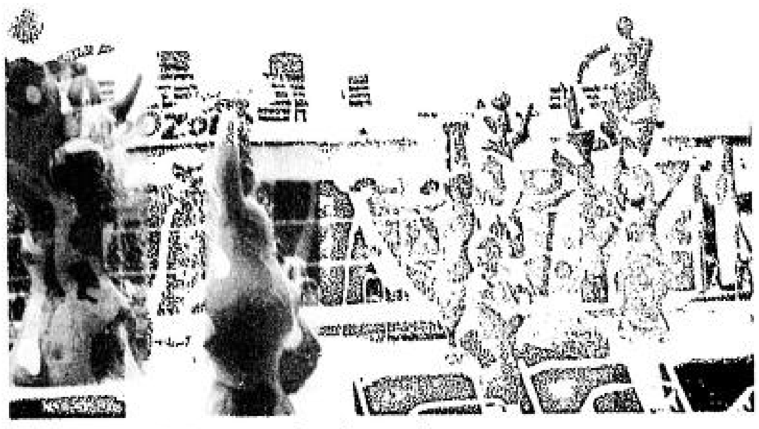
ABOVE: Our group got the impeccable service of the Filipino crew during cocktails on our first evening onboard the Freedom of the Seas.

EVENINGS on a cruise ship can also be fun costume parties.

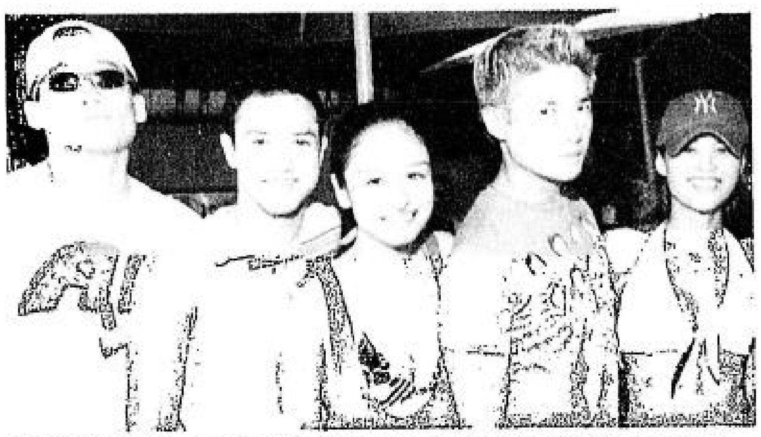
HOTSHOTS of Royal Caribbean: Rama Rebbapragada and Maria Sastre

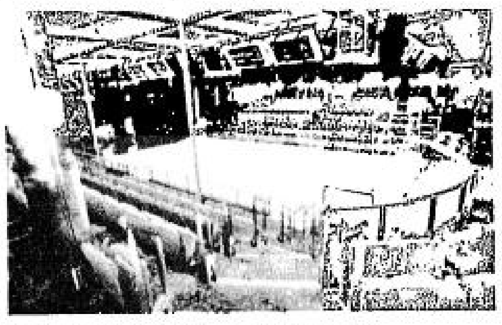

THE FOUR-BEDROOM Presidential Family Suite has a dining area, jacuzzi and private deck

Enjoying my Freedom to cruise the seas


CHILD-friendly fantasy swimming pool

BROADWAY musical productions are presented every night at the 1,350-seat Arcadia Theater.


ADDICT Mobile *famille*: brand manager Luis Ang, Paolo Gonzalez, and endorsers Kelly Misa, Tim Yap and Cristina Garcia


THE multipurpose ice-skating rink

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

BEFORE I LEFT MANILLE I MADE A promise to myself, "I will not gain weight on this cruise." I tried my best to be diciplined, but with all the excellent food served in all the resto outlets, especially at the elegant dining room, where one had a choice of the excellently prepared seven-course menu, from aperitif to the main course and desserts, I decided, what the heck, forget about calorie-counting—for a couple of days, at least. I treated my taste buds to food, glorious food, on the Freedom of the Seas. It was really freedom time.

After watching the Circus of the Seas, a traditional parade paying tribute to the glorious circus parades of the past, we toured the six fabulous *famille*-focused staterooms, including the Presidential Family Suites. The suites are perfect if you're traveling with your *famille* or gang. Whether you're a party of six, eight or even 14, there is something for your budget.

And believe me, they didn't look like suites at all—they were more like condominiums! They even had huge balconies with jacuzzis. Wow!

On our last night, we had a great dinner. Afterward we rushed to our stateroom, which had all the amenities one could find at home—flat TV, spacious shower and toilet; DVD set—you name it, they have it. Plus the to-die-for bed, with its luxurious bed sheets and pillow cases that make you want to stay in bed all day, dahlings.

Our suitcases had to be out of our cabin by midnight for collection for our disembarkation at 8:30 the next morning, so it was an early night for us, but not for adorable **Tessa**, who still took a look-see at the Casino Royal and watched the fantastic ice-skate show that night.

Beautiful memories

When we left Southampton, we watched the ship vanish from the horizon as we made our way back to London for an overnight stay and a day of last-minute shopping. (We were to go back to Manila on KLM.)

I recalled what the dashing **Richard Faim**, Royal Caribbean chair and chief executive officer, said: "We chose the name Freedom of the Seas because it is all about freedom of choice. Freedom to explore. Freedom to relax. Freedom to make one's own holiday plans reflective of one's own tastes and interest."

Without a doubt, dahlings, Freedom of the Seas is truly a distinguished masterpiece of maritime architecture, an incredible visual sensation, decorated in true, understated opulent elegance.

One personality who is definitely smiling from ear to ear is the young woman of substance, fashion plate **Marilen Panganiban Yaptangco**, hotshot president and CEO of Arpan Air Inc. of the ever-reliable Baron Travel.

Freedom of the Seas will have its regular run of seven nights around the Caribbean route starting June 4, sailing from Miaui to Cozumel, Mexico; Georgetown; Grand Cayman; Montego Bay; Jamaica; and Royal Caribbean's exclusive private destination, Labadee, Hispaniola.

Royal Caribbean Cruises Ltd. is a global cruise company that operates Royal Caribbean International and Celebrity Cruises. It is represented in the Philippines by Arpan Air Inc., the sister company of Baron Travel Corp.

For more info on the Freedom of the Seas, consult your travel agent, or Arpan Air Inc. at 8922703 and 8943957, or e-mail rylcarbbeanarpanair.com.ph.

Who wants to disembark when one's traveling on the best destination on earth?

Yes, dahlings, with Royal Caribbean, you will definitely have the freedom to explore while discovering the world. It's your opportunity to do something new and different, things you have yet to experience aboard a ship. It's freedom at its best!

'In heat' in Bora

The gorgeous island of Boracay was like Grand Central Station with launchings, concerts and other activities taking place one after another, *palanggas*.

No sooner had *moi* taken off than I was headed back again, storming Bora for the launch of Addict Mobile's scorching "In Heat 2006" summer campaign, *palanggas*.

The Addict Mobile campaign wasn't a one-off event but a series of happenings all over the island, merging technology and entertainment. Addict Mobile took their service to the next step with the launch of Addict 3G.

"Simply put, 3G allows one to keep in touch with (his/her) circle through video calling, high-speed Internet (just as fast as DSL) and video streaming," the press materials said. Needless to say, Addict showed us how easy it was to use 3G via demos in every bash they hosted, dahlings.

With the new cool endorsers out in full force—PDI's **Tim Yap**, gorgeous **Cristina Garcia**, smart **Borgy Manotoc**, **Kelly Misa** and handsome **Derek Ramsey** for Addict Mobile; and **Nicole Hernandez**, soft-spoken **Brent Javier** and stunning beauty **Georgina Wilson** for AMP (Addict Mobile Prepaid)—Addict was definitely the hot leader of the party pack in Boracay that week, *palanggas*.

Not only did subscribers get free tickets, free drinks and access to the VIP areas, they also had the privilege to choose parties that best fit their taste. "Parties in Heat" was the main attraction, but the "Deals in Heat," offering the latest must-have handsets at lower postpaid plans, and the awesome "Privileges in Heat," giving VIP access to subscribers in all parties, were just too irresistible.

This In Heat 2006 campaign was powered by Addict Mobile, AMP, Smart 3G, in cooperation with Motorola, Nokia, Chikka, Big Fish, Eventscape and Uno Magazine.

REFRESHING beauty Anne Curtis

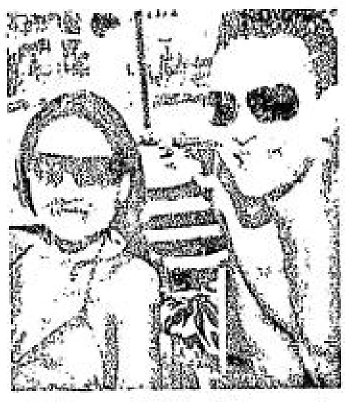
THEA Froekjaer, JM Rodriguez and top DJ Manolet Dario

MICHELLE Pamintuan and Georgina Wilson

JUAN Elizalde and Bianca Araneta

CHEESE Ledesma and Joel Ong

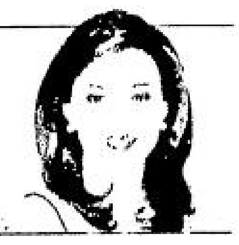
JACQUES Dupasquier and eye-catching model Jackie Inoferio


HOT couple Tisha Silang and Geoff Rodriguez

Healthy inside and out

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino



HEALTH EXPERTS AGREE that to build a strong foundation for well-being you have to get healthy.

The prescription is the same: balanced diet, exercise, relaxation, sleep and supplementation. But how and why should you start?

Caring for the inside

Every day, your body's 63 trillion cells are bombarded by the enemy—free radicals. These are unstable molecules from the air you breathe, the food you eat and the water/liquids you drink.

Free radical damage, if left unchecked, will damage/destroy your cells and weaken your immune system hastening aging and causing disease.

So, the more protection you have through the intake of antioxidants that fight free radicals, the better you are able to stay healthy.

And because beauty also depends on the state of your health, you have to adopt a healthy lifestyle if you want to be attractive and appealing.

Nutritional plus

In 1998, the Journal of Medicinal Foods studied and evaluated liquid vitamins and minerals and found them effective in health management. In 2002, the Journal of the American Medical Association published the results of almost 40 years of research on the relationship between vitamins and diseases. They indicated that vitamin deficiencies were associated with chronic diseases like cancer, coronary heart disease and osteoporosis (go to www.virtualhealthinfo.com).

The big vitamin helpers versus disease included Vitamin C, E, folic acid, B6, B12.

At the Gifu Pharmaceutical University in Japan, a study showed that nutrients from mangosteen (fruit and rind), which has xanthones, had strong antibacterial effect and medicinal and antioxidant properties.

Several mangosteen-based supplements are now available. One of them is Vemma that has formulated separately liquid-minerals and mangosteen plus fortified with 12 full-spectrum vitamins, the first of its kind.

The Vemma Nutrition Program is in the prestigious Physicians Desk Reference, a listing of nonprescription drugs and dietary supplements used by healthcare professionals. Call AIGS at 6873016 or 6873018.

The power of juicing cannot be underestimated. You can make it a daily habit to take at least one fruit or vegetable juice a day for a healthy start.

Pamper the outside

Gone are the days when adding color to your face means pinching your cheeks until they blush and biting your lips till they are red. Beauty enthusiasts know there are easier and safer ways to achieve color. And the search is on for the best, most effective products.

Saving us time and effort, Marie Claire Phils. joined the search for the best cosmetic product. The Prix d'Excellence de la Beaute 2006 is a 20-year-old international research by an international panel of beauty experts. A local search, where several magazines were represented, announced nine product winners.

Anti-aging

- Eluage Crème and Gal by Avene uses hyaluronic acid to enhance the production of this same substance in skin to improve its elasticity.
- Platineum by Lancôme was designed for women in their 60s. Rich in calcium to combat "dermoporosis" (reduction of calcium).
- Sensitive Nivea Visage, a calming day crème for sensitive skin that is fragrance-, color- and alcohol-free.

Cosmetics

- Volume Shocking by L'Oreal Paris is the new generation mascara with 16 patents. Its two-step process guarantees lashes that are double in volume. Available in July.
- Dream Matte Mousse by Maybelline, designed for the modern age, it is for the woman on the run, a foundation that doesn't run.
- Liquid Bronze by Clarins—achieve that tanned look even if you stay out of the sun, a self-tanning lotion.
- Rouge Pure Shine by Yves St. Laurent—the classic red lipstick that promises more color than a lip gloss.
- Kiss Kiss by Guerlain—stylish lipstick perfumed with violet and red fruits.

Home treatments

Your bathroom is a virtual beauty corner, and your kitchen your source of natural health remedies. Open your refrigerator and find something good for you. Let's try the cucumber. Eaten raw or juiced, it is effective in cleansing the body and is beneficial to those with diabetes, according to health enthusiasts.

As a facial mask, blender or mash and mix with one tablespoon of milk (fresh is better but canned will do). Apply chilled on the face. Cut cucumber round slices and apply on the eyes. Relax. Put your feet up. Listen to music. Think happy thoughts. Rinse after five to seven minutes.

Affirm now: "Happiness is a state of mind. And I claim happiness now."

Love and light!

Revelations on the Gospel of Judas

Part II

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

IN CODEX PAGE 40, "THE CONFLICT between the Gnostics and the orthodox church is reflected in how Jesus sees the church and its questionable doctrine. The disciples have a vision of the temple, which Jesus explains in allegorical terms. He compares what they see in the temple to the wrong message coming from the emerging mainstream church. The disciples, he explains, are akin to a temple priest, or 'minister of error,' one who expounds inaccurate teachings."

The big mistake the emerging Christian church made then was to see only the outer or exoteric aspects of Christ's words and teachings, completely ignoring the hidden or esoteric meaning.

That's why the accepted teaching lacks substance, leading to erroneous knowledge, although the church insists it is the only correct interpretation.

By crushing any form of dissent or opposition, the mainstream church succeeded in consolidating its power within the hierarchy of the priesthood. Only they can interpret the teachings. All the rest are heretical.

But the people who wrote down the Gospel of Judas and the other Gnostic writers did not think they were being heretical. In fact, it was the other way around.

Deviation

Followers of Christ called Gnostics considered the teachings of the mainstream church heretical. In their belief, it was the Orthodox Church that deviated from the true teachings of Christ.

Codex page 56 says, "...You will exceed all of them. For you will sacrifice the man that clothes me."

In this passage, Christ described how Judas would rank among the other disciples after Jesus' death.

"According to the Gospel of Judas, the savior is the spiritual being inside Jesus who lives in a spiritual dimension. The physical being of Jesus is a simple covering, much like a clothing that the Spiritual Savior wears in the world. Jesus is essentially telling Judas that, by betraying him—knowingly and at his request—he is being a true friend and allowing the man Jesus to die, so that the Savior can be free to return to his home in heaven. In Gnostic tradition, Jesus neither sees his death as a tragedy, nor as a necessary act to save the world from its sins."

No wonder the Catholic Church in the Philippines is denouncing the Gospel of Judas as heretical and is downplaying its significance.

But the church, by doing this, only arouses the curiosity of the faithful who have been conditioned merely to obey the dictates of the church and not to question its pronouncements. The church indeed has a lot of explaining to do.

Shocking

As if these new data about Judas Iscariot were not enough, the entity Gabbey brought out more shocking revelations that, although they could not be independently verified, were at least consistent with Gnostic and New Age beliefs.

The entity Gabbey revealed to Jun Aquiatan the following pieces of secret information about Judas Iscariot that were completely unknown before:

"The account in the life of Judas during the time of Christ was not written by Judas himself but by people who knew the story through Judas' disciples."

According to Gabbey, "Judas did not kill himself. He just withdrew from the rest of the apostles. He went away and formed a group that also preached about Christ."

The news that he killed himself was circulated "so that Judas' act would be forgotten. It was Judas' men who circulated the news, not the apostles," according to Gabbey.

Aquiatan asked why there were no records or documents of Judas and his group preaching about Christ.

Gabbey replied documents would be found later regarding this. "In fact, some fragments have already been found, but not yet shown to the world. These documents, together with others, would really shock the world."

"Did Judas really betray Jesus or was he really asked by Jesus, in order to fulfill his mission?" Jun asked Gabbey.

Brothers

Gabbey said the initial agreement was reached by Judas and Jesus in one of their past lives when they were brothers.

"Jesus, as true man, had a human soul that kept reincarnating. When this human soul had already perfected itself after several reincarnations, it was used as a human vehicle for the Divine to manifest in this world. That Divine Being was called Christ. Remember that God is a spirit. He has no material body. The Divine spirit, who was Christ, used Jesus as human vehicle to be in this world.

"Jesus and Judas... were (in a previous life) the only children of a couple who lived in Egypt. They were orphaned at an early age and survived through farming. Due to their closeness, they swore they would help each other and, if one should be in need, the other would help even at the expense of his own life.

"Now, when they met again during the time of Christ, that agreement was revived. But it was only Jesus who remembered it, having the power to read past lives, while Judas did not know this. So, Jesus asked Judas' help to fulfill his mission."

(To be concluded)

***Next week:** Secrets revealed by Jesus to Judas*

Making exercise safe for you

From page C1

perience of fitness professionals who, through the years, have identified certain observation factors that make an exercise unsafe.

Too fast

This doesn't mean you should never do a fast exercise. The rule is to be always in full control of your movements. Compare a skilled boxer with a person just learning to box. The boxer's hands are a blur as he goes into a flurry of punches. The beginner is awkward and uncoordinated.

If the beginner tries to move as fast as the expert, his joints will take a beating because he does not have the core control to stop the extra momentum created by his flailing arms.

Even simple weightlifting exercises can be unsafe when excessive momentum is applied. So always remember to move at a speed that you can properly control. With relatively heavy weights, that is usually at slow to moderate speed.

Too soon

If you give your body just the right amount of challenge, it will adapt by getting stronger and fitter. But if you challenge it before it is ready, even a basic exercise will cause an injury.

Many beginners get hurt because they try to do advanced exercises. Experienced exercisers can also get injured if they attempt advanced exercises not suited to their fitness skill. For example, the risk of injury is high for a cyclist trying to do an advanced yoga class, no matter how fit she is.

Too much

Majority of exercise injuries are due to overuse, primarily because of too much exercise. You can end up with knee surgery because of excessive hours of cycling or running. The second reason is doing only one kind of exercise. Instead of spreading out the stress of exercise, it is continuously concentrated in one or two joints.

Too heavy

Bicep curls are a simple and safe exercise. But when done with weights that are too heavy, it becomes an unsafe exercise, putting stress on the lower back and the elbows. You can have the safest exercise program in the world designed for you, but if you lift weights that are too heavy, every single exercise in your program will become dangerous.

Not appropriate

If you have a structural abnormality or past history of joint injury, some exercises will never be appropriate for you. A shoulder stand is too risky for a person with neck issues because it flattens the normal curvature of the neck and places too much weight and stress on the delicate neck bones.

Wrong execution

Abdominal curls are a pretty straight-forward exercise but many people do it wrong and end up hurting their necks, instead of working on the abdominal muscles. Wrong execution is the reason for many exercise injuries. That's why it is so important to get professional instruction—ideally in person but, at the very least, through books or videos.

Unnatural movement

Behind-the-neck pull-downs and behind-the-neck military presses are examples of unnatural joint movements. These types of exercises go against the structural design of the shoulder joint. If you have to lift a heavy box overhead, you would not do it behind your neck because it is unnatural.

The body has its own wisdom. If we just listen, we won't get hurt.

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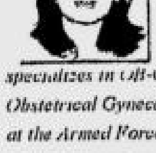
What are the causes and risk factors of cervical cancer?

The precise cause of cervical cancer is not known, but the risk factors believed to be related to its development are following: multiple sexual partners, early sexual activity, history of sexually transmitted infection, history of such infection in the sexual partner, smoking history (40 pack years), HIV, HPV(Human Papilloma Virus), low socioeconomic class, race (black vs white), and use of oral contraceptive pills. It is therefore important that women practice prevention. For primary prevention, we mean avoidance of the risk factors mentioned above.So primary prevention would include having a monogamous sexual relationship between husband and wife, delay in onset of sexual intercourse (there is a greater risk of cervical cancer for those starting sexual intercourse at age 14-15 years than those over 20), use of barrier contraceptives, and prompt and adequate treatment of sexally transmitted infection. For secondary prevention, women are advised to have regular screening: annual conventional cytology (pap smear) then at or after age 30, after 3 consecutive normal smears, may decrease screening interval to every 2-3yrs.



This week's answer to our feature question on Cervical Cancer was provided by our Medical Coordinator at Luzon Medical Center, Dr. Ma. Salome Pastoral. Dr. Pastoral or "Dr. Babette" as she is commonly address by her patients, specializes in OB-Gynecology and a Junior Member of the Philippine Obstetrical Gynecologic Society. She took her specialization training at the Armed Forces of the Philippines Memorial Medical Center. She is married to a surgeon, Dr. Antonio Pastoral Jr. and blessed with a child. She spends her free time cooking exquisite dishes MEDICard members may seek consultation services from Dr. Pastoral at Luzon Medical Center located at Mc Arthur highway, Dagupan City, from Mondays to Sundays,9 in the morning up to 4 in the afternoon.

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

Nicky

MEDICard PHILIPPINES, INC.: 9th floor Sagittarius Building H.V. dela Costa Street, Salcedo Village, Makati City 1227 Trunkline: 88-4-9999 Fax No.: 894-5720; 810-3866 Text: Key in MEDICARD and send to 2344 (Globe & Touch Mobile) or 4627 (Smart & Talk N' Text) E-mail: inquiry@medicardphils.com Website: www.medicardphils.com

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So to help keep the digestive system healthy, aid in the renewal and rejuvenation of body cells, and promote immunity against certain ailments, get into the really soft cracked whole wheat goodness of Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. It's whole health for the whole body everyday!

Cracked Whole Wheat: The Little Big Fighter

Wheat bread is popular among the diet and figure conscious, and health enthusiasts. More often than not, the value most recognized in wheat bread is fiber. Indeed, wheat bread is an excellent source of insoluble fiber that cleans the digestive system and helps reduce bad cholesterol in the system. But there's more to wheat bread than just fiber, especially if it contains cracked whole wheat like Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun.

Cracked whole wheat means the whole wheat kernel is used; the bran, germ and endosperm. All these are turned into bits that are included in the whole wheat flour used in Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. To fully appreciate the nutrition in wheat kernels, it's best to know its anatomy:

- Bran – The multi-layered outer skin of the kernel. It contains antioxidants, iron, zinc, copper, magnesium, B vitamins, fiber and valuable nutrients.
- Germ – The embryo. It contains B vitamins, vitamin E, antioxidants, valuable nutrients and unsaturated fats.
- Endosperm – The germ's food supply. It contains starchy carbohydrates, proteins, vitamins and minerals.

Nutritious

By using the whole kernel, all the nutrition found in wheat is harnessed to lend the body its full nutritive value. All the fiber, valuable nutrients, antioxidants, vitamins and minerals, carbohydrates and unsaturated fats come together not only to keep one's figure trim, but also to have the potential to give support to the body against certain diseases. Small but terrible, as they say. The miniscule cracked whole wheat kernel is truly a big fighter and a helpful ally for one's total well being.

Lesser food intake

Cracked whole wheat may be effective in addressing overweight condition. Because cracked whole wheat helps satisfy hunger for longer periods, it results in lesser food intake.

Helps decrease bad cholesterol

Heart disease can also be kept in check with cracked whole wheat. Together with a low fat diet, it may help decrease bad cholesterol that can cause heart attacks.

Good for diabetics

Cracked whole wheat, with a low fat diet, may also help improve the body's glucose response and decrease insulin sensitivity that may help diabetics.

Helps lower risk of some cancers

Because cracked whole wheat is rich in antioxidants, it may help protect cells against oxidative damage which may possibly lower the risk of hormone-related cancers like breast cancer.

Now consider the deliciously soft and nutritious Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun. You can see and taste it because real cracked whole wheat bits are present and dot each bun with all their goodness and health-strengthening properties. So bite into deliciously soft and nutritious cracked whole wheat goodness for whole health for the whole body with Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun.